

60 feared drowned in Thames

LONDON (R) — Up to 60 partygoers were feared drowned Sunday after a dredger sliced into a pleasure boat and sank it on London's River Thames. Police said the sinking shortly before 7 a.m. in the heart of London could be the worst on the waterway for a century. As many as 150 people — most of them in the 20s — were on the blue and white pleasure boat Marchioness for a river cruise birthday party. By late Sunday afternoon, police sources said 20 bodies had been recovered, including that of a woman swept 13 kilometres upstream by the fast incoming tide. "You're talking about a boat that weighs 90 tonnes in a collision with a vessel that weighs 3,000 tonnes," said Ken Dwan, director of Tidal Cruises which owned the disco boat Marchioness. (See page 5).

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Sudan talks continue

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Delegations representing Sudan's new military government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) held a second day of talks Sunday aimed at ending the country's six-year-old civil war. An SPLA delegate said the two sides had not yet agreed on an agenda for the meeting, the first between the rebels and Sudan's new government of Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who seized power in a coup June 30. "The two sides have so far exchanged views on the general issue of war and peace in Sudan, but no specific issues have so far been discussed," the rebel delegate said on condition of not being further identified. The private talks were proposed by Sudan's government. The SPLA delegate said he did not know how long the talks would last.

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King, Arafat discuss Lebanon, uprising

By Suhair Obaidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches
AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday discussed the situation in Lebanon and means to support the 21-month-old intifada in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks also covered "various Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian problem and Palestinian political moves."

Reviewing the "tragic situation in Lebanon, the two leaders also exchanged views on the report prepared by the Arab tripartite committee (of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria) and the best means to accelerate efforts to put an end to the Lebanese tragedy within the framework of a pan-Arab solution," Petra said.

The King and the PLO leader, in their second meeting in three days, also "expressed pride in the success of the intifada and the Palestinian people's struggle against the Israeli occupation," the agency said.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, the King's advisors Adnan Abu Odeh and Abdul Salam Majali, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior

Minister Salem Masa'deh and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi. On the Palestinian side, the talks were attended by PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas, Abdul Rahim Ahmad, Abdullah Hourani, Abdul Razak Al Yehya, Jawad Ghannouch and Mohammad Milhem.

The King held talks with Arafat and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the King's overnight visit to Baghdad Friday, and the focus of the discussions was believed to be the Lebanese situation.

Later Sunday, Sharif Zaid held a separate round of talks with Arafat, Petra said. The prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's commitment towards the Palestinian cause and its support for the Palestinian struggle in all regional and international forums towards serving the cause and contribut-

ing to achieving the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to an independent state on its national soil, Petra said.

Arafat expressed his appreciation for the King, the government and people of Jordan for their support of the Palestinian cause, Petra said.

According to Petra, Sharif Zaid and Arafat also reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian scene and efforts to find a just, comprehensive solution that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. They also discussed the situation in the occupied territories and Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, the agency added.

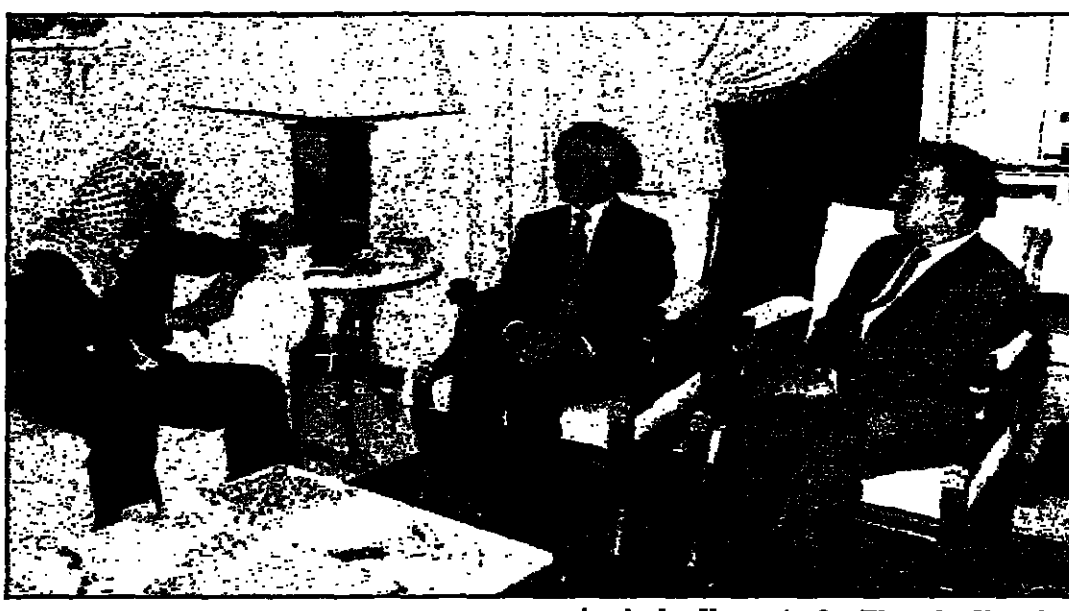
Arab and international issues of common interest were also discussed by the prime minister and the PLO leader, Petra said.

In an arrival statement at Maraka Airport Sunday, where he was received by Sharif Zaid, Arafat said he hoped that an Arab summit would be convened soon to discuss the situation in Lebanon. He said further Arab moves towards peace in Lebanon depended upon the results of efforts made by the tripartite committee, which was mandated by the last Arab summit held in Casablanca in May.

In a report earlier this month, the committee said its efforts had reached "a dead end" after shuttle missions by its members to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and other Arab countries.

The Arab committee's report "will definitely be discussed in the next Arab summit, which we hope will be convened very soon," Arafat said at Maraka Sunday. "What I am supporting is the Arab plan... approved at the last Arab summit in Casablanca."

In a press conference held in Baghdad Saturday, Arafat said an Arab peacekeeping force was the only way to help the Lebanese solve their problems.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday meet with PLO leader Yasser Arafat (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Gazans begin boycott of jobs in Israel

EREZ CHECKPOINT, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — A Palestinian strike in protest against new Israeli entry cards halted almost all movement of Arab workers from the occupied Gaza Strip into Israel Sunday.

The Israeli army said only 350 vehicles had entered Israel by noon as the overwhelming majority of Gaza workers heeded a call from Palestinian leaders for an indefinite boycott of work in the Zionist state. Up to 50,000 people cross most Sundays.

Army spokesman Hanan Rubin looked across four idle car checkpoints during what should have been the busiest period and commented: "It's because of the strike."

Inside the Gaza Strip, businesses operated normally. But a 36-year-old man, Salah Al 'Eid, of Rafah, died in hospital after being attacked with axes and knives Saturday night.

Army sources said he was killed when he refused to surrender his new magnetized plastic entry card to activists of the 20-month-old Palestinian revolt who have been confiscating them. But Palestinian sources said he died in a family feud.

Every Palestinian man crossing into Israel from Gaza must now show one of the new cards, designed by Israel to weed out suspected activists. Those who do not have them are refused entry.

Some people have not applied for the cards, some have been turned down by the Israeli au-

thorities as "security risks" or because of demands for back taxes and some have lost their cards to the activists.

"If I apply they will take it again," said a 24-year-old Palestinian whose card was taken by activists a month ago. He was turned back when he tried to enter Israel at 4 a.m., the usual start of the rush hour.

Israel has issued 60,000 of the cards. Palestinian activists claim to have confiscated 80 per cent of them but military authorities say only three per cent have been taken.

Sunday, the first day when a full flow of workers would have been normal.

Cars filled with workers trying to enter Israel were often backed up on Sundays for several kilometres in the pre-dawn hours, but this time soldiers seldom had to deal with more than two cars at the same time.

Palestinian activists also called for people in the occupied West Bank to stop work in Israel for a week in solidarity with Gaza.

The struggle over the identity cards has become a test of wills between Gaza Palestinians, who depend on income from work in Israel, and Israel, which depends on cheap Arab labour for certain areas of the economy such as construction.

Several of those who did cross into Israel said they were going to collect pay and would not continue work in violation of the boycott call.

Body exhumed

The Israeli army exhumed late Saturday the brutally beaten body of a Palestinian-American boy after allegations that its troops shot him dead in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Palestinians accused the army of killing 14-year-old U.S. citizen Amjad Hussein Jibreen and dumping his body, found with cigarette burns and severe blows to the head, in hills outside Ramallah.

The army denied the charges but closed off Ramallah to quell unrest. It exhumed his body to try to disprove charges that the troops killed him.

"I believe it was certain army groups (undercover units) or Jewish settlers," said Palestinian nationalist Faisal Al Hussein, who was prevented by soldiers from visiting Jibreen's family.

The U.S. consulate said it was in contact with Israeli officials since Jibreen went missing in the tense days following a fire-bomb attack on an Israeli car last Monday. But it said it had no proof as to the cause of Jibreen's death.

A Palestinian teenager stabbed an Israeli soldier near Jerusalem's walled Old City Sunday, slightly wounding him in the neck, police said.

Paramilitary border policemen patrolling the area on the edge of Arab Jerusalem arrested the 18-year-old attacker from the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Beirutis get day of respite from shelling

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese flocked to beaches and mountains on the first quiet Sunday in a month of savage shelling but international efforts to end five months of bloodshed showed no signs of moving ahead.

"It's as if we were imprisoned and have just been set free," said Nabil Brak, a resident of east Beirut.

In east Beirut, sunbathers lounged around the pool or played tennis at the Saffa Marine club. But few strayed far from radios which give Lebanese their first warning that shelling has resumed.

"I was living underground or shut inside my house for the past month. I just want to breathe fresh air," said Raya, a resident of west Beirut.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul-Halim Khaddam and officials from several pro-Syrian Lebanese and Palestinian groups arrived in Libya Saturday for what political sources in Beirut said was a bid by Damascus for support in its campaign to oust Lebanon's army commander Michel Aoun.

The Libyan news agency JANA said Khaddam held talks with deputy leader Abdul Salam Jalloud but did not say what was discussed.

Libya has in the past expressed support for Aoun's military cabinet, competing for recognition with a civilian administration in west Beirut which is backed by Syria.

Battles in and around the capital have abated since the Security Council issued an urgent appeal Wednesday night for a ceasefire.

Three Arab League foreign ministers who last week presented a new plan aimed at ending 14 years of sporadic civil war were awaiting a signal from their heads of state before resuming mediation efforts, political sources said.

The blueprint, presented to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, makes detailed proposals for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and political reforms to give Muslims a fairer share of political power.

Syrian forces and their Lebanese militia allies again shelled an Aoun-controlled coastline overnight to stop ships breaking their blockade of the enclave.

The blockade was imposed in March after Aoun attempted to shut down militia-run ports south of Beirut and announced a "war of liberation" to expel 33,000 Syrian troops.

At least 760 people have been killed and more than 3,000 wounded since then, mostly in savage artillery exchanges which have devastated Beirut.

EC efforts

The European Community (EC) will discuss emergency aid measures for Lebanon at a meeting in Paris Monday, French officials said.

France, currently in the chair of the 12-nation alliance, convened the meeting of Foreign Ministry political directors to step up EC efforts.

President Francois Mitterrand was in Madrid Sunday for talks with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez on both EC affairs and the Lebanon crisis.

Experts from non-government humanitarian organisations were invited to Monday's Paris meeting to advise on the best way of helping civilians in Beirut, French sources said.

France, through diplomatic initiatives begun Aug. 12 and by sending a small but powerful naval force to the Eastern Mediterranean, has led international efforts to end the fighting and forge a durable settlement in Lebanon.

The French aircraft carrier Foch, escorted by the frigate Cassard, left its Mediterranean base at Toulon Saturday evening, shortly after the Orage, a landing vessel with a hospital aboard, set sail from the Atlantic port of Brest.

They will meet up in waters off Lebanon with three naval ships already there. The flotilla's official mission is to provide humanitarian assistance and evacuate the French community from Beirut if necessary.

Hostages threatened

BEIRUT (R) — An underground pro-Iranian group holding two American hostages in Lebanon said Sunday they were in danger if the French navy intervened in Lebanon's war.

"America which leads France should know that any foolishness from the French fleet will endanger the fate of its hostages so it should take into consideration this aspect," the Revolutionary Justice Organisation said in a statement.

The statement, issued to Al Nahar newspaper, was accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Edward Austin Tracy. France has sent an aircraft carrier and a frigate to the Eastern Mediterranean to bolster its diplomatic drive to try to end fighting between Syrian forces and Lebanese troops loyal to army commander Major-General Michel Aoun.

The underground group, which also holds American Joseph Cicippio, also threatened to attack French interests inside France at any time.

"We send a very accurate threat that French strategic security will be targeted. Our attacks will not be linked to specific conditions. All options are open," the statement said.

"The latest developments prove that the rulers of France have forgotten the lessons and are still determined to go ahead with the criminal American policies," the statement said.

"The Revolutionary Justice Organisation whose goal is to defend the rights of the oppressed will not allow France under any cover to intervene in the region."

At least 58 French paratroopers were killed in 1983 in a suicide attack.

Mazowiecki: Poles should not despair

GDANSK, Poland (Agencies) — Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Solidarity newspaper editor designated as Poland's next prime minister, urged his countrymen Sunday to cast aside despair and build a free and prosperous future.

"Why should we be a nation incapable of doing anything? We must create a better Poland, but first we must believe in it," he told a rally in the Baltic port of Gdansk. "And I do believe in it, because Poland is alive and Poland is growing."

President Wojciech Jaruzelski nominated Mazowiecki Saturday to form a government, the first in Eastern Europe to be dominated by non-Communists in more than 40 years. The Communist Party said it would take part in his administration.

"The prime minister hopes that he will complete the government by the end of August," Jacek Ambrozak, an aide to Mazowiecki, told reporters after Solidarity's leadership met in Gdansk to map out their strategy for the new administration.

In a foretaste of the problems he will face, a group of youths barracked Mazowiecki and union leader Lech Walesa after they emerged from a Roman Catholic service at St. Brygida's Church, a Solidarity stronghold.

"We want bread, not a prime minister," they roared. But up to 2,000 Solidarity sup-

porters drowned the hecklers with thunderous applause as Mazowiecki replied: "I see the huge and difficult tasks ahead of us, and I am well aware that we need bread rather than a prime minister."

"There is only one way. We have to get rid of this feeling of hopelessness. This nation, this fantastic nation, can fix things so that we will live a better life."

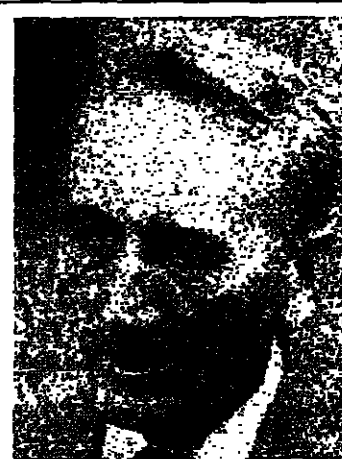
Walesa, a friend to Mazowiecki since Solidarity was born in Gdansk after a wave of strikes in 1980, exclaimed: "We know that the shops are empty. Tadeusz knows it, too. What he is taking on is a huge responsibility for Poland."

Walesa told the hecklers: "Poland has to be rebuilt from scraps. It is not us who destroyed it, not me or Tadeusz. The two of us were carrying on this struggle for years."

Mazowiecki's nomination must be approved by the Sejm, one of two chambers in the national legislature. Solidarity and its coalition allies control 264 seats in the 460-member chamber.

Mazowiecki, Walesa and the leadership of both the Solidarity union and the Solidarity parliamentary caucus held a meeting to determine what to do next.

The prime minister-nominee described the leadership meeting as "a talk about what the colleagues, friends expect of the new government." He said he was



Tadeusz Mazowiecki

satisfied with the session, which he called the first of many.

He said before the meeting he had been thinking about who he would propose for the new government, but described any progress as "tentative."

An aide said Mazowiecki expects to name the government by the end of the month but no decisions had been made on the allocation of ministries among the three members of the Solidarity-led coalition and the communist party.

Walesa put together the parliamentary majority that enabled the once undreamed of appointment of a Solidarity prime minister and he had recommended Mazowiecki to Jaruzelski.

Walesa himself passed up the opportunity to lead the country, saying he had taken his political career as far as he wanted. On Sunday, Walesa reiterated that Mazowiecki's government would have Solidarity's full support and advice.

IMF approves new \$28m loan to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced its approval of nearly \$28.5 million loan to Jordan to help the Kingdom go ahead with its economic reform programme, which was worked out jointly by the Jordanian government and the IMF board, according to an announcement here Sunday.

The announcement said the new loan would be in addition to an \$80 million loan offered to the Kingdom last month. But the announcement noted that Jordan has drawn only \$49.25 million out

of the total amount offered to it today.

An earlier government statement said that the economic reform programme aims to create a suitable climate for the continuation of the economic process and economic growth and to help Jordan attain monetary stability and improve its balance of payments.

The IMF decision, the statement added, was a major step towards helping Jordan normalise its dealings with its foreign creditors, including governments.

Chalabi removed from merger panel

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The government has decided to remove "fugitive" banker Ahmad Chalabi from a supervisory committee set up to implement the merger of Petra Bank with the Jordan Gulf Bank and said the Iraqi-born financier had left the Kingdom illegally.

The latest turn to the story of Petra Bank, which is accused of "unorthodox" practices by many banking circles, came in a statement issued by the Economic Security Committee (ESC) and carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The news agency also carried more details into the affairs of the bank and the reasons, which, it said, were behind the government move to order the merger.

The statement, the first by the government on the affair since Chalabi left the country Aug. 8, contradicted the banker's claim that he had left through legal channels using the airport. The statement said the decision to remove Chalabi from the six-member merger supervisory team came after the banker's departure from the country through "illegitimate means."

Chalabi was chairman and director-general of Petra and he also served on the board of directors of the Jordan Gulf Bank before the Central Bank's merger order, issued five days before Chalabi left the country.

"We put Chalabi on the supervisory committee to give him a chance to cooperate with the new management and disclose the bank's troubles, but he chose to run away from his duties and leave the country illegally," the statement said.

"The Economic Security Committee regrets this behaviour and reaffirms this behaviour will not hamper the implementation of the legal procedures" against the former chief

of the second largest commercial bank in the country, the statement said. It said "legal action would be taken pending the outcome of an investigation currently under way into the accounts of the two merged banks."

It said that initial investigations found clear imbalances in the ratio between cash reserves and deposits in foreign and local currencies as dictated by law and excessive bending of rules concerning the safety of depositors' reserves.

Chalabi's departure, according to the statement, will not disrupt the Petra-Jordan Gulf Bank merger process.

In the statement, the committee said it had instructed the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to be prepared to pump funds into the banks if necessary.

Ali Sarraf, director at the foreign exchange department at Petra Bank, was detained by airport security forces as he was about to board a flight to London Aug. 10 and was last reported to be under interrogation.

Chalabi has claimed, in separate telephone calls he made from an undisclosed location to at least three journalists in Amman Aug. 12, that he was the victim of a "vendetta," that he was on a holiday and intended to return to the country. The whereabouts of the banker remain a mystery.

Chalabi has accused the merger supervisory committee of taking actions, which, he contended, threatened Petra Bank's international relations, including the suspension of its international VISA cards. But, he said, it was too early to take "legal action."

Banking sources quoted by Reuters Sunday said CBJ Deputy Governor Michel Marto was in Washington to investigate the Petra Bank Branch there. Petra owns 70 per cent of the branch.

Angola peace talks stalled

LUANDA (AP) — The Angolan government recalled its representatives from peace talks with UNITA rebels, and clashes in the 14-year-old civil war intensified, government- and rebel-controlled media reported Sunday.

Armed forces chief Antonio dos Santos Franco's delegation returned Friday to the Angolan capital of Luanda from talks in Zaire, state TPA television reported.

The government said negotiations would not resume until after next week's summit of African leaders in Harare, Zimbabwe, where talk mediator, Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko, was to give a progress report.

Dos Santos Franco waited in the Zairean capital of Kinshasa for 48 hours and left Friday after waiting for the rebel delegation, the Portuguese news agency, Lusa, said Sunday. UNITA's negotiators arrived Friday, the agency said.

Meanwhile, reports continued of large-scale clashes between government forces and UNITA — the National Union for the total Independence of Angola. Sunday's edition of the state daily newspaper, Jornal de Angola, said it was the first major

military incident in months to involve Cuban troops, who are gradually withdrawing from Angola under the terms of international peace accords signed last year.

According to the paper, six Cuban soldiers died Monday during a rebel attack on a supply column near the village of Ganda, central Benguela province.

"The irresponsible actions of UNITA leave no alternative but to act with all our means... to guarantee our defense, liberty and independence," said the daily in a front page editorial Saturday.

Jornal de Angola also accused the United States of "unscrupulous interference in Angola's internal affairs," by allegedly supplying UNITA with technical equipment to strengthen rebel radio broadcasts from Maun, in northern Botswana.

UNITA's black Cockerel radio, monitored Sunday in Luanda, said some 150 people died and many more were injured last week when government forces attacked the town of Mavinga in the southern province of Cuango-Cubango, with Soviet-built MiG-23 fighter jets and long-range artillery.



A small Lebanese girl rests with her hand to her head after she and her family members from Beirut crossed into Israel's self-declared 'security zone' in South Lebanon.

Hizbollah leader calls on Israel to release Obeid

By Donna Abu Nsar
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — A high-ranking Hizbollah cleric was quoted as saying Sunday that despite condemning the kidnapping of Western hostages, the pro-Iranian party was not going to side with the Americans against the abductors.

"We are not police in the service of the Americans, unlike the United Nations and the Security Council which sent its envoy to Lebanon, Syria and Palestine to look for Higgins or his body as if Sheikh (Abdul Karim) Obeid was not human," said Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili.

Obeid, 33, a Hizbollah-affiliated cleric, was abducted from his home in South Lebanon July 28 by Israeli commandos and flown by helicopter to Israel.

Tofaili, a member of the 12-man high command of Hizbollah, also "advised" Israel in an interview with the conservative Al-Diyar newspaper to "free Sheikh Obeid, and soon."

Israel offered to trade the cleric and all Shi'ite prisoners it holds for three Israeli soldiers and the Western hostages held in Lebanon.

The pro-Iranian Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth claimed July 31 it hanged U.S. hostage William Higgins, whom it holds, because Israel had refused to free Obeid.

The group released a videotape purporting to show Higgins' body, bound and gagged and hanging from a makeshift gallows.

United Nations envoy Marrack Goulding visited Lebanon, Syria and Israel early this month to investigate the conditions of Higgins' reported death. Higgins was working with a U.N. peacekeeping force when he was kidnapped.

During his trip Goulding appealed for Israel to immediately release Obeid, but Tofaili accused him of bias.

"The United Nations came to our country looking with one eye," said Tofaili. "We cannot do that."

Despite public disclaimers, Hizbollah believed to be the



Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid

umbrella for extremist factions holding most of the 16 Western hostages in Lebanon.

"It's true that the abduction and detention of hostages is against our convictions, but it's equally against our conviction to help America and lessen its problems and Israel's problems," said Tofaili.

"Out of this concept, we're not concerned with the issue of the hostages nor its consequences. As for the question of the Israeli prisoners in our hands, we haven't been thinking of them for years," he added.

Asked what would be the outcome if further complications occurred in the hostage problem, he said he did not believe the United States was capable of direct military intervention.

"I don't think the options for the United States would ever exceed muscle flexing. But what could happen is a lightning Israeli military operation possibly involving paratroop landings," he said.

Tofaili said any large-scale Israeli operation will be "very costly, costlier than they could ever imagine. We are ready to take them on."

Tofaili reiterated Hizbollah's outright rejection of any negotiations with Israel on a prisoner swap.

"We had been studying the issue of negotiating with Israel before the abduction of Sheikh Obeid, but... (his abduction) has

blocked the way for negotiations," said Tofaili.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin had suggested that Hizbollah contact the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to get negotiations going for a prisoner swap, saying it would allow the ICRC to visit Obeid.

Tofaili said his party had not contacted the ICRC.

"We don't care much if the ICRC sees Sheikh Obeid or not," said Tofaili.

The 16 hostages include eight Americans, four Britons, an Irishman, an Italian and two West Germans.

In Tehran Sunday, the daily Kayhan International said the U.S. should not entangle the hostage issue by linking it to frozen Iranian assets in the United States.

The paper also said that U.S. President George Bush should move quickly to change the American attitude towards Iran as the present climate of anticipation could change.

"Mr. Bush has everything to gain and nothing to lose by adopting a more rational and human attitude in his Iran policy," the paper said.

The government-supervised paper said the U.S. should unfreeze billions of dollars in Iranian assets, most military purchases blocked after Iran seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took 52 Americans hostage in 1979.

The paper said the gesture should not be confused with ransom of the hostages.

"There is absolutely nothing to bargain, negotiate or pay ransom for," the English-language paper said.

It also said Bush did not need to call on world leaders to help him with the hostage crisis, as the United States could take the simple step of distancing itself from Israeli "acts of terrorism and violation of human rights."

The Iranian government has said it has no direct control over the kidnappers in Lebanon, but could try to use its influence to free the hostages.

CAMERAS CONFISCATED — An Israeli soldier with an Uzi sub-machine-gun holds two small video cameras after they were confiscated from two Palestinians who work with foreign television networks. In centre is Maher Shabab, a freelancer for the Visions television agency, who was allowed entry to photograph after a petrol bomb attack on four Israeli government workers.

Palestinian lawyers to call off strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A committee representing Palestinian lawyers who appear before military courts have decided to end a monthlong strike even though it did not achieve its goal of better treatment for Arab prisoners.

"I did not expect our strike to achieve results," said Bahji Tamami, head of the 220-member Arab Lawyers Committee. The committee is made up of Palestinian lawyers, but includes four Jewish-Israelis.

"Our purpose was to protest and tell the world that there is no justice in Israeli courts," Tamami said.

Added Ahmad Sayad, a member of the committee: "I think we have achieved nothing."

Tamami and Sayad said Palestinian prisoners are often forced to confess to crimes they did not commit and prisoners are treated harshly.

They said arrests are not always reported to the families of detainees and Palestinians have received different sentences for the same offenses.

Tamami said the striking lawyers were demanding better treatment for prisoners, prompt notice of arrests, and the translation of charge sheets from Hebrew to Arabic.

"We received no reply from the Israeli advocate general to our demands," he said.

Protest against attacks

An underground Palestinian women's group is circulating a leaflet calling for an end to Islamic fundamentalist attacks on Christian and secular Muslim women in occupied Jerusalem and elsewhere.

The clandestine leaflet, titled "Mayday Mayday Mayday" and signed by the Women's Council for Palestine, said radicals stoned and cursed women they considered improperly dressed.

"Wicked souls acting in the name of Islamic custom and tradition... (are)... throwing eggs, stones, paint and many other things and using dirty words which Islam forbids," it said.

A Christian Arab woman from Jerusalem said youths pelted her with eggs in the walled Old City when she walked there with her head uncovered.

Such assaults have long occurred in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, a stronghold of Islamic fundamentalism.

Women there say they are forced to cover their heads in public to avoid being stoned or abused.

The Women's Council of Palestine, which has both Christian and Muslim members, called on women to resist the assaults and demanded action from Hamas and the underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising to stop the attackers.

The leaflet blamed Israeli agents for inciting the attacks. "To end the intifada they try to buy weak souls... their only intention is to divide the community and divert attention from our uprising," it said.

Frenchman killed, another captured in Afghanistan

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan troops killed one French national and captured another in a clash with Mujahideen last week, a government spokesman said Sunday.

French embassy officials in neighbouring Pakistan Friday announced the death of French aid worker Vincent Gurnigon.

They said he was employed by Handicap International, an organisation making artificial limbs.

Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani, however, accused the Frenchmen of involvement in anti-government activities with the Mujahideen.

Amani said the two Frenchmen were travelling in southern Afghanistan with a group of about 20 guerrillas from the Jamiat-Islami rebel group.

He said the group clashed with the Afghan army and in the fighting Gurnigon was killed and Xavier Lemire was wounded and captured.

Amani said Lemire had been taken to Kabul, was well and was under investigation.

"They (the Frenchmen) were conducting subversive and anti-government activities with the Jamiat," he said.

Scores of Western aid workers have fled from Pakistan into Afghanistan with guerrillas to set up clinics or organise development projects in rebel-controlled areas.

Rocket barrage

Fourteen rockets slammed into Kabul Saturday, and hospital officials said that at least 18 people were wounded.

The attack occurred on the 70th anniversary of the nation's independence from Britain. The government did not celebrate the day, despite reports that President Najibullah would appear at an official function.

Because of rumours of massive rocket attacks on the city from the U.S.-backed guerrillas, the streets of the capital were almost empty.

Kabul has been hit almost daily by rocket attacks since late June.

The Mujahideen have claimed responsibility for some attacks on the seat of the Soviet-backed government they have tried to oust for 11 years. However, no one claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack.

The rebels say they aim for military targets, but unofficial estimates say 98 per cent of the rockets have hit non-military targets including schools, homes, crowded bus stops and bazaars.

One rocket Saturday went through the roof of the home of a family in Karte Parwan, just blocks from the British high commission, which was closed before the Feb. 15 withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

It went through two floors, landing in the living room and

showing shrapnel on a woman who suffered injuries to her back and right arm.

Young boys and girls wailed and the brother of the injured woman said the United States was responsible for the deaths of innocent Afghans.

"They're killing us! Why are they killing us?" he asked, refusing to give his name.

U.N. sources say 335 people were killed and more than 900 injured in rocket attacks and a car bombing between June 25 and Aug. 12. Virtually all were civilians.

The Afghan government Thursday accused the United States of supplying the rebels with new, more deadly rockets that explode in mid-air, showering small warheads over a wide area.

Spokesman Amani said the rockets, which he did not identify, had U.S. markings.

A promised trip Friday to see pieces of the new missiles was cancelled. Deputy spokesman Naqib Sameer said the Kabul garrison commander had destroyed the pieces because they were too dangerous.

U.S. officials have promised new arms shipments to the Mujahideen but have not disclosed the types of weapons. Published reports say they include cluster bombs and Spanish 120-mm mortars to crater airport runways.

Pope renews Lebanon appeal

SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, Spain (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II, his voice cracking with emotion, called Sunday for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon.

"In the name of God, I appeal to all those responsible to initiate an immediate ceasefire and dialogue that will take into account all the legitimate and historical rights and allow all the people to live in peace and mutual respect," the Pope said after a mass at this Christian holy site.

The Roman Catholic spiritual leader celebrated the mass for thousands of young people on the second day of a three-day tour of Spain.

The Pope was scheduled to travel later Sunday to Oviedo, the capital of the mining centre of Asturias.

The statement Sunday was

John Paul's second in a week urging peace in Lebanon, where the latest round in a 14-year-old civil war erupted in March.

He said that despite his call for an end to fighting — and the efforts of the U.N. Security Council — "it seems that the intention is to destroy the city of Beirut and particularly the neighbourhoods where Christians live."

The speech came after John Paul received a peace petition from two young Lebanese Christians attending the fourth Vatican-sponsored World Youth Day in Santiago de Compostela.

Red and white Lebanese flags, adorned with the green cedar tree, fluttered among the crowd of several hundred thousand youths, who gathered on Mount Gozo for the morning mass.

The Pope has offered to go on a peace mission to Lebanon where he said genocide was taking place. In a rare attack on a named state, he Tuesday accused Syria of wanting to destroy the country.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said the Pope was "trying to do everything he can" to bring peace to Lebanon and that the Vatican was contacting Lebanese officials.

There was speculation the 69-year-old pontiff could announce a trip to Beirut before he returned to Rome Monday.

"I deeply regret that bombings are still causing casualties and suffering among the most beloved Lebanese people despite last week's efforts," he said in an apparent reference to his ceasefire appeal last Tuesday.

The Pope has offered to go on a peace mission to Lebanon where he said genocide was taking place. In a rare attack on a named state, he Tuesday accused Syria of wanting to destroy the country.

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Majlis postpones debate

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's parliament Sunday postponed discussing the new cabinet presented by President Hashemi Rafsanjani a day earlier, instead focusing on embezzlement charges against the minister of heavy industries, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Minister Behzad Nabavi faced a no confidence vote over an embezzlement scheme at Saipa, the car manufacturing company run by his ministry that makes cars under license from Renault.

Nabavi was not included in the 22-member cabinet Rafsanjani proposed Saturday for approval by the Majlis, or parliament.

Newspaper editorials Sunday urged speedy confirmation of the new president's cabinet.

Nabavi, 47 and a cabinet member since 1980, was accused by the Majlis of aiding the embezzlement scheme by not acting to stop

it and of making inconsistent remarks about the case.

Nine people have been convicted of stealing 2.5 billion rials (\$360 million) by illegally selling cars on the black market and charging unofficial dollar rates for cars ordered by government companies.

IRNA said some of the money was deposited in foreign banks and has not been recovered.

Touraj Mansour, the former director general of the car factory, has been sentenced to pay a fine of 1.2 billion rials (\$167 million), 70 lashes and an eight-year suspended jail sentence.

Nabavi, in defending himself in front of the Majlis Sunday, said he was unaware of the details of the case, but was now certain there had been violations at the Saipa plant.

IRNA quoted Majlis Deputy Ali Movahedi Savaji as saying the parliament would decide whether

Nabavi "has carried out his Islamic and revolutionary responsibility in this case or not?"

Excerpts from Sunday editorials carried by IRNA indicated support for the cabinet Rafsanjani choose. He dropped radical rivals from the list and put technocrats in key posts.

"All in all, the composition of the cabinet promises that a spirit of equilibrium and realism prevails in the new government," the government-run Abrar said.

"The new cabinet is the one suitable for a period of growth and renovation and is highly qualified with regard to specialisation in economic, social and cultural aspects," it said.

The English-language Tehran Times said that Rafsanjani had shown his "independence and determination" in dropping rival Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the interior minister, from the government.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:55 Children programmes
17:00 Flying Doctors
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local series
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Pigues Assiettes
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 The Golden Girls
21:10 "The Boat"
21:10 News in English
22:00 Shadow of the Noose
22:20 "Isa"

PRAYER TIMES

06:35 Fair
06:58 (Sunrise) Daba
12:39 Dhuhur
16:17 'Asr
19:19 Maghrib
20:42 'Isa

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifich

Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Sille Church Tel. 661757

Terrassanta Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 626543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361.

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.

Syrian International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817. 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Subail Tannous 889003

Dr. Mohammad Amran 653999

Dr. Majed Abu Steinyeh 881635

Dr. Abdul Majid Shaker 791408

Pinas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nakrouk pharmacy 623672

Al Sabun pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Fawad Momani (—)

Al Shams pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:

Company 636381

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630241

Rescue 199

Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777

Blood Bank 691222

Highway Police 775121

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605900

Water and Sewerage 651176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 121

Telephone Information 010230

Overseas Calls 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 680100

Water Authority 813615

Jordan Electricity Authority 636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Abdali Maternity, J. Amn 624112

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malib, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsani 664714

Shamsani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 648845

Al-Muhsin Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdali 661737/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775117/26

Army, Marj 881517/5

Queen Ali Hospital 62240/30

Amal Hospital 674125

ZARQA:

Dutch university to host exhibition on Deir Alla archaeological finds

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition shedding light on archaeological discoveries in Jordan around 800 B.C. will open at the museum of the State University of Leiden in Holland Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

To pave the way for the exhibition, which displays artefacts excavated at the Deir Alla region in the Jordan Valley with the help of Dutch archaeologists, a four-day symposium opened Sunday at the same university.

According to the Department of Antiquities in Amman, which is organising the exhibition and the symposium in conjunction with Leiden University and Yarmouk University, the symposium will focus mainly on the painted inscriptions from Deir Alla, estimated to date back to 800 B.C.

According to the department, the Deir Alla excavations were initiated under the direction of professor Henk Franken in 1960 and continued until 1967.

They were resumed in 1976 as a

joint project between the Department of Antiquities, the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University and the Department of Archaeology of the State of University of Leiden.

The publication of the results of the first phase of excavations was a watershed event in the study of the Iron Age culture in Jordan.

For the first time a distinctive indigenous culture was recognised and consequently it became possible to diminish the tendency to see Jordan as always a kind of marginal area of boundary zone.

This indigenous character is reflected in some of the Iron Age pottery traditions and types which were of local development and not connected with traditions in neighbouring countries.

The inscriptions too, which were painted on thin, smooth plaster surfaces, and dated to 800 B.C., are thought to be a local variety of Aramaic writing tradition.

Abu Taleb receives Pakistani counterpart

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Sunday held talks with his Pakistani counterpart General Mirza Aslam Bek. They reviewed the situation in the region, scopes of cooperation between the armed forces in the two countries, and issues of common interest.

Also present during the meeting were the Pakistani ambassador in Amman, a number of Abu Taleb's assistants, the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander, and members of the visiting delegation.

The Pakistani chief of staff also visited the Martyr's Monument and toured all the sections which tell the story of the Great Arab Revolt and the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The Pakistani chief of staff arrived in Amman Saturday on a several-day official visit to Jordan to meet with a number of senior officials and tour military and touristic sites in the Kingdom.

Wazani to represent Jordan at ACC talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a two-day meeting by ministers of justice in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries, which is due to open in Baghdad Wednesday.

A Ministry of Justice official here said that the four ministers will review steps designed to unify legislations in Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan dealing with penalties, judicial affairs,

the training of judges and the exchange of expertise in judicial matters.

Minister of Justice Rafeq Al Wazani will represent Jordan at the meeting.

Jordan is also scheduled to take part in a meeting by heads of Arab chambers of industry in the four ACC countries which is due to open in Cairo towards the end of August.

AOID, CAEU heads discuss Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Questions related to the convening of the seventh conference by the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) in Tunis in October were reviewed here Sunday by AOID Director General Hatem Abdul Rashid and Mr. Hassan Ibrahim, secretary general of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

The two officials discussed

issues related to joint industrial ventures in the Arab World and coordination in industrial affairs among the Arab League member states, which will also be taken up by the six-day ministerial conference in Tunis.

Joint industrial ventures to be set up in Jordan, Syria and Egypt in coordination with the AOID and the CAEU were also reviewed at the meeting.

Government to create 3,500 jobs during 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government's organisational plan, as envisioned in the coming fiscal budget to be submitted to the cabinet later this year, is expected to entail the creation of 3,500 new jobs in government offices during 1990, according to press reports quoting informed sources.

The reports said that the current plan for 1989 created 3,800 new jobs in various government departments.

Most of the new jobs for next year, the reports noted, will be created in the health and education ministries and only 200 jobs will be created in other fields.

The reports noted that the reduction in the number of jobs is clearly due to the current economic and financial situation in the country and in response to government policies of rationalising and controlling public spending.

The government normally approves the organisational plan which gives details about various positions in different departments and their purchases during the fiscal year.

The budget department at the Finance Ministry will have to work out the plan first before a government endorsement.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- A photography exhibition depicting development in Romania at the University of Jordan.
- An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Maha Abu Ayyash at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.

FESTIVAL

- A cultural festival including exhibitions of books, paintings and national documents, as well as documentary films, lectures and poetry recitals at Elder Sports Club, Karak.

LECTURE

- A lecture, in Arabic, by former Health Minister, Dr. Zaid Hamzah, on "Comprehensive Medical Insurance" at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- A French film entitled "La Maison de Boris" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Sharif Zaid praises JWF efforts to promote culture

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday voiced his appreciation of the Jordanian Writers Federation's (JWF) efforts to promote the cultural movement in the Kingdom.

Sharif Zaid also expressed his support for the federation in a letter to its president, Husni Fariz, coinciding with the publication of the first issue of the federation's gazette, the Jordanian Writers Gazette.

Works by prominent Jordanian writers, intellectuals and poets appear in the gazette.

Apart from the gazette, the JWF plans to carry out a programme which includes invitations to Jordanian and Arab writers to meet with the public and offer their intellectual and literary work through cultural seminars and festivals.

According to Fariz, the programme is designed to boost the literary and cultural movement in Jordan.

The JWF groups 93 writers, up from 40 two years ago when the group was known as the Jordanian Writers Association.



Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker

Arabs called on to copy Jordan's experiment in prison rehabilitation

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day conference on reformatory centres and prisons in the Arab World ended here Sunday with the participants calling on Arab governments to copy Jordan's experiment in providing rehabilitation services for prison inmates to become useful and good citizens after they serve the prison terms.

The call was one of the conference's resolutions and recommendations contained in a final statement issued following the closing session that was held Sunday morning during which a host of topics connected with improvements in conditions at reformatory centres and means for rehabilitating the inmates were discussed.

The participants said that they

had visited a number of reformatory centres in Jordan and were impressed with the services and programmes that benefit the inmates.

The final statement called on Arab governments to unify laws pertaining to the imposition of penalties, and urged the Arab Interior Ministers Council to work out a draft agreement which would organise the transfer of convicted people from one Arab country to another, and to allow inmates sentenced in one Arab country to serve their terms in their home country.

The statement said that the participants urged Arab governments to double efforts in providing cultural and vocational training programmes to the inmates, in order to make them useful

members in their own society.

The head of Jordan's team to the meeting, Brigadier Muayyad Mubaslat, delivered the final address, lauding the participants' efforts which made the conference a success.

Mubaslat had accompanied the delegations to the Swaga Prison, south of here, where they were briefed on the model programmes for the rehabilitation of prison inmates.

As the conference came to a close the participants sent cables to His Majesty King Hussein and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh voicing appreciation for the hospitality and facilities that helped to crown their meetings with success.

Jordan, 4 Middle Eastern states discuss power interconnection

CAIRO (Petra, J.T.) — A technical committee charged with paving the way for a power interconnection project between Jordan and four other Middle Eastern countries opened a meeting here.

Delegates representing Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Turkey are represented in the committee which will also pave the way for a ministerial meeting to be held in Istanbul on Sept. 1.

A spokesman here said the committee will review a feasibility study on the project and questions related to selecting an inter-

national consultancy firm which will be involved in preparations for the project, as well as issues pertaining to a number of Arab and Islamic funds that are expected to finance the scheme.

Committee sources said that the Islamic Development Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development have tentatively agreed to finance part of the project which is expected to cost \$500 million, but will save a total of \$300 million worth of fuel and electric power annually for the five countries once it becomes operational.

The committee members said that the project will help the five countries to exchange power and could lead to a linkage of their grids. It could also lead to linking the grids of the five countries with those of Europe through Turkey.

The five countries last January agreed to set up, for the first time, the power grid interconnection in the region, and also chose Amman as the venue for an office coordinating the work of the technical committee.

The project is expected to be carried out between 1991 and 1993.

Jordan, 11 Arab states prepare for Sept. 2 industrial fair in Argentina

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan along with 11 other Arab countries will organise a joint Arab industrial fair in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Sept. 2, with the purpose of promoting the sale of Arab industrial products in Latin America.

According to a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC), the Kingdom will display samples of its products which also include traditional handicrafts.

Last May a delegation led by Mr. Fares Eid, president of the Arab-Argentine Chamber of Commerce, visited the 12 Arab countries in preparation for the fair.

Eid said in a statement that the exhibition, the first by the Arab World in Argentina, is designed to help bolster Arab-Argentine relations in industrial, commercial and cultural fields and to increase the volume of trade between the two sides.

Nearly three million people of Arab descent live in Argentina, contributing actively towards the country's development in economic, political, social and cultural life, Eid said.

He said the newly elected Argentine President Carlos Menem is of Arab origin, whose parents emigrated to Argentina from Syria.

Eid had meetings with Jorda-

nian officials including Mohammad Asfour, President of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, who presented a briefing on the types of products Jordan would like to exhibit in Buenos Aires in September.

The spokesman said also that JCCC will participate in the Berlin International Fair which will be held in October.

A variety of samples depicting national industries will be displayed at the Berlin fair, the spokesman said.

He added that Jordan has been participating in the annual fair in Berlin for years along with nearly 100 nations.

Sewing workshop starts in Jerash

AMMAN (J.T.) — A four-week sewing workshop started at the Turath Handicraft Centre in Jerash with the aim of improving the performance of supervisors at local sewing workshops run by voluntary non-governmental organisations.

The workshop, initiated by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) National Handicraft Development Project, will be conducted by the New York-based Near East Foundation with funding by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The 20 participants will be instructed, through demonstration and hands-on training, in such areas as industrial cutting, sewing

machine operation and maintenance, sample making for new products, quality control, basic management and pricing.

Attendants include supervisors in sewing workshops run by the Save the Children Federation, the Urban Development Department, the Jerash Ladies Benevolent Society, the Community Development Centre in Jabal Al Nuzha, in Amman, and the three production schemes run by the NHF's Women and Development Project: Al Raya Ready-to-Wear Plant in Mafrqa, Zarco Moccasin Factory in Zarqa and the Traditional Dolls Workshop in Amman.

The training course will be conducted by Mel Phillips, Vice-

president for Manufacturing and Engineering at Munsingwear, a leading U.S. manufacturer, and Debra Brummett, a textile and garment design specialist currently residing in Jordan.

Phillips is coming to Jordan for the third time. In 1987, he was a consultant at the Raya Workshop and last year he provided his expertise to Jordan Ready-to-Wear, a local firm based in Salt.

Brummett, who holds Masters degrees from both the United States and Japan, has been involved with Al Raya Workshop and the Bani Hamida Weaving Project. At one time she was state clothing specialist at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

Jordan, Iraq and S. Arabia buy from Aqaba rice handling facility

AQABA (J.T.) — A rice handling facility in Aqaba owned by Amman Resources Company announced Sunday that it had sold 250,000 tonnes of rice to Iraq, 5,000 tonnes to Saudi Arabia and 15.2 tonnes to the Ministry of Supply in the first quarter of 1989.

The announcement said that the plant, which was set up with sponsorship from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), created 240 new jobs for Jordanian workers.

The plant, which began operations in Aqaba last March, was

set up in cooperation with the Jordan Ports Corporation and will be turned over to the corporation in 15 years, under the terms of an agreement by the two sides.

The Amman resources rice handling facility and the Jordan Kuwait Company for Agriculture and Food Products are joint owners of the rice handling plant and a liquid fertilizer plant in Aqaba.

The rice handling facility cost over \$4 million in foreign exchange. The owners sought long term five years financing and

special rate interest available under the commodity import programme sponsored by USAID. The financing package enabled the Amman Resources to finalise the promising joint venture they had developed with Comert Rice Inc. of Texas.

The plant in Aqaba mills first quality American rice which is then stored, cleaned, treated according to customers' orders and specifications, bagged and distributed to consumers in Jordan, Iraq and other countries of the region.

Ministry and pharmacists locked in row over price of imported medicine

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In the spiralling dispute between the Jordan Pharmacy Association and the Ministry of Health over pricing policy, both parties are firming up their respective positions on the issue, which could have serious implications for the availability of imported drugs in the country.

The row, characterised by mud-slinging and accusations, centres around the pricing policy adopted by the government. The ministry refuses to allow a new price hike which the pharmacists claim was promised to them in a written agreement negotiated and signed with the Ministry of Health. They are asking for a 20 to 25 per cent increase for the medicines not covered by subsidised rates for the American dollar under the present two-tier exchange rate system.

According to the Jordan Pharmacists' Association (JPA), the problem with pricing began with the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in August 1988. To reflect the devaluation, the ministry increased prices of imported drugs by 30 to 35 per cent to help the importers cover their costs. But the problem was not solved, according to the association, because when drugs are imported they are paid for six months later. The further devaluation of the currency minimised the benefit of the initial increase, they point out.

The association negotiated with the ministry and reached agreement on another price increase. "Based on that more items were imported. But the ministry went back on its word and did not raise prices," pharmacist Abed Al Rahim Issa told the Jordan Times.

"Any item imported after April 1 was paid for at the rate of 820 fils to the dollar," he said, referring to a period when private sector importers had to find their own means to secure foreign exchange for their imports. "Most of the drugstores lost 50 per cent and now are having problems importing more medicines," he added.

The Ministry of Health does not agree with this version. "We did not go back on our word to the pharmacists association. They revoked the agreement by refusing to abide by one of its provisions," Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Sunday.

According to Malhas, the agreement between the ministry and the association was "a package deal" under which "the association agreed not to raise prices of drugs already on the shelves. But, after the agreement was signed, they refused to abide by this stipulation."

"So they basically revoked it themselves," the minister said.

Furthermore, he asserted, the agreement was reached between the association and the then government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, and therefore "it is null and void."

But, the pharmacists argue that they entered the agreement "not with a particular minister in a particular government, but with the Ministry of Health."

The association has also sent an official letter dated Aug. 13, 1989 to the Minister of State for Economic Affairs voicing their grievances.

According to the association members many drugstores were forced to close.

Drawn into the melee are importers and distributors who complain that they are the ones that have to import the medicines and not the pharmacists, which, the minister says, violated the agreement. "We can not control the pharmacists' actions," complained an angry distributor.

Obviously, the pharmacists have realised the need to coordinate their strategy with that of the distributors. In a meeting held at the Professional Associations Complex Saturday night, they decided that they would work jointly with the distributors and further consolidate their push to resolve the problem.

The dispute has serious implications for a country which depends on imports for over seventy per cent of its medicine needs.

The ministry has issued 64 new licences for the import of 792 types of pharmaceutical products in an attempt to avert any shortage in the country.

The medicines will be bought through the private sector's drugstores at the official exchange rate of around 600 fils to the dollar set by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). However, "the new licences do not help at all," argued a pharmacist who is also a direct importer. "If you want to import you have to register your

drugstore, a new company and the items you are going to import. This takes about two or three years."

Statistics available to the Jordan Times indicate that Jordan imported drugs worth JD 18 million in 1988 while the production of local pharmaceutical manufacturing companies was worth JD 4.5 million. The cost of imports in dollar terms is definitely going to register an increase this year in light of the devaluation of the dinar.

Reflecting views expressed by many who attended Saturday's meeting, Issa, who says he has been in the business for the past 21 years, also pointed out that most well-established and reputable companies with proven products have agents in Jordan. "So, issuing new licences is useless." "In this country we only need specialised items because we already have other drugs and we can't import if we are going to lose," he further augments another contention of the pharmacists.

According to Malhas, the 792 medicines covered by the government priority list represent 26 per cent of total Jordanian imports of drugs. The minister pointed out

that the World Health Organisation (WHO) lists 250 medicines as essential for survival and these are included in the subsidised drug list.

But the pharmacists disagree. "The 792 medicines on the list cover only five per cent of the real value of imported items," argued Issa, in response to the minister's comments, which were made at a press conference he held last week.

Some pharmacists also criticised the benefit of the Central Bank's two-tier exchange rate system.

"In my opinion this only saves five per cent of imported medicines because some items have not been imported for a long time or the manufacturers have closed down four or five years ago," one distributor explained.

Another said, "Given the help, I can't import two or three items on the subsidised list from a company and also import the other items that other companies will not sell."

A slightly combative tone sounded at the meeting Saturday as the participants tried to find a solution that would benefit both sides. "We have been serving the country for 30 years and we want to continue this. I don't want a solution that will harm the country," one pharmacist said.

Both the minister and the association agreed that a pharmaceutical industry can meet its production to local needs. It does not offer any alternative solution since any other production line will have to be materialised.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Sunday approving the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) headquarters in Baghdad agreement. (Petra)

AGREEMENT: The Cabinet has endorsed the agreement for cooperation signed between Jordan and Libya in Amman on Aug. 13. The agreement provides for reinforcing cooperation in the health field particularly with regard to exchange of medical expertise. (Petra)

BOOKS: Minister of Culture and Information Nizar Bishara Sunday opened an Egyptian book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. The ten-day exhibition includes over 100,000 books covering a number of fields. (Petra)

HAMDAN APPROVES ROAD PROJECTS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Youssef Hamdan has agreed to offer tenders to build pavements and embankment in a number of streets in Marj Al Hamam township at the cost of JD 12 million. He also agreed to maintain streets in Shatna township in Irbid Governorate at a cost of JD 4,000. Hamdan also agreed to allocate JD 300,000 for townships of Slejh and Greisa in Zarqa Governorate for the purchase of equipment used in spraying insecticides. (Petra)

BORDER MATTERS: Jordan's Ambassador to Damascus, Ali Al Hadid and Syrian Interior Minister Mohammad Haras Sunday discussed facilities provided to travellers at the Jordanian-Syrian border and discussed the need to further improve these facilities. (Petra)

NRA COMPLETES STUDY ON ENERGY RESOURCES: The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has completed a comprehensive study on natural resources in Jordan and has issued a report containing detailed information on sources of energy. The outcome of this book is designed to supply researchers with all necessary information on natural resources and to provide guidance to companies to launch investment projects in the field of energy in Jordan. (Petra)

JAPANESE CONSULTATIVE TEAM LEAVES: A Japanese consultative delegation left Amman Sunday at the conclusion of a five-day visit to Jordan during which talks were held with officials of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Industry on means to launch joint projects with the contribution of the private sector in both countries. After getting acquainted with the chances of investment in Jordan, the delegation prepared a report on a paper factory and some industries related to printing and publishing in the free zones. (Petra)

BISHA INSPECTS EXCAVATIONS: Director General of the Department of Antiquities Dr. Ghazi Bisha Sunday inspected the Irbid Antiquities Department. He also checked the various archaeological excavations underway in various regions. (Petra)

DRUG PEDDLERS JAILED: The Military Court sentenced Jamil Abdul Hadi Ahmad Allan to seven and a half years imprisonment and the payment of JD 5,000 for drug possession and trafficking. The military court also sentenced Mohammad Youssef Salem Zra' to seven and a half years of imprisonment with hard labour and the payment of JD 5,000 for importing and trafficking drugs. The military governor endorsed both sentences. (Petra)

DISTRIBUTING ANIMAL FEED IN ZARQA: Zarqa Governorate Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobshi Sunday chaired a meeting to distribute animal feed in the governorate, adopted by the Governorate during which decisions were adopted to distribute animal feed in the governorate. (Petra)

MEDICAL BOARD EXAMINATION: The Jordan Medical Board (JMB) examination, covering all medical specialisations, will be held during the period Nov. 15 - Dec. 11, a JMB source said Sunday. (Petra)

SOLAR ENERGY: Directors of solar energy research centres in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will hold their first meeting in Baghdad on Sept. 7. The discussions will deal with cooperation among the ACC countries to develop use of solar energy and exchange information. (Petra)

FAO EXPERTS AT QOU: Two educational media experts from U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) have arrived at Al Quds Open University (QOU) for a 10-day consultancy mission. They are assisting the university staff in developing communication technology and media to support QOU's educational programmes, especially its Land and Rural Development programme. (J.T.)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: A new batch of People's Army recruits graduated in North Shuna. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON MAGNETIC FLUIDS: The University of Yarmouk will take part in the international conference on magnetic fluids due to convene in the Soviet Union.

Jordan Times

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Rough start

IT IS disheartening to note the negative tone in statements made by the Sudanese rebels on the course of talks they held Saturday and Sunday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with representatives of the military government in Khartoum.

Despite the very nature of the power he holds in Khartoum, declarations made by military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir have unambiguously indicated his realisation that the most pressing issue facing Sudan is the six-year-old civil war in the south. The conflict is a sharp-edged sword hanging over international relief efforts for the starving thousands in Sudan and Bashir has said, on more than one occasion, that he was indeed aware of the gravity of the situation and was giving priority to peace talks with the rebels. However, the demands put forward by SPLA leader John Garang before the Addis Ababa talks got off were indeed a dampener, at least at this stage of uncertainties that cloud Sudan's political life and democracy. But, the very fact that Bashir chose to ignore them and assert that such declarations would not have any impact on the peace talks was a firm pointer to his thinking that the common national identity that binds the rulers in Khartoum and the rebels in the south should be the catalyst in arriving at a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

The main sticking point, as it appears now, is Bashir's dismantling of political parties after assuming power in the June 30 coup. The rebels are demanding a return to democracy in Sudan. Indeed, the Addis Ababa talks are a litmus test for Bashir's intentions in the context of Sudan's political future; if he agrees to the rebel demand for democracy it will definitely be a declaration of his plans and, if he doesn't, it means continued denial of democratic life to the Sudanese.

So, it is the future of Sudan at stake as much as the fate of the conflict in the south. The issue of internal reforms and changes in the bureaucratic structure that the rebels have been demanding are forced on to the backburner when it comes to the question of whether and when the Sudanese can hope to return to enjoying a say in the running of the country and in its future.

It is indeed wishful thinking to envisage the Addis Ababa talks would produce a magic formula for a compromise between the two sides, but it is only fair on our part elsewhere in the Arab World to hope for at least basic agreement that dialogue should continue.

We hope both sides will realise that if the Addis Ababa talks fail to produce any tangible result, then it will be the starving Sudanese who will pay the price. It will indeed be sad for everyone concerned, including Jordan, which has led efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese, other countries and the various international organisations which have painstakingly built up a channel of relief to the hungry and needy in Sudan.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i daily on Sunday discussed the situation in the Gulf region one year since the ceasefire took effect. The paper said that the Iraqi armed forces achieved a decisive victory and safeguarded Arab soil. The source of pride for all Arabs however was the show on the part of the Iraqi leaders who chose to extend to Iran a friendly hand, seeking a total peace and a durable settlement in the Gulf region, the paper noted. It said that the Iraqi leaders have been continually calling for a permanent peace and maintaining that the ceasefire which took effect a year ago was no substitute for a comprehensive settlement to the issue. A whole year of ceasefire along the battlefield between Iran and Iraq should now prompt the rulers in Tehran to take further steps leading towards a permanent peace with its neighbour, specially that Iraq has proven unconquerable by the Iranian forces who are ready to defend Arab soil any moment, said the paper. The Tehran rulers, the paper added, should also realise that the Iranian economy which was devastated in the war can be reconstructed only in an atmosphere of total peace and security for all people in the area.

Al Dustour daily commented on statements by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker on Jordan Television on Friday. Almost the whole domestic situation including the problem of trade and supply finance and monetary issues and parliamentary elections were dwelt on in these statements, the paper noted. The prime minister, said the paper, seemed relaxed and at ease while answering questions, and indeed his statements were reassuring to the public about the future expressing determination to embark on further conservative steps that would maintain the process of development, the paper continued. It said that one can only feel gratified with the outcome of the government's monetary and financial measures taken over the past two months and which have now boosted the national currency. The Central Bank's reserves have now increased to \$400 million, and the dinar is now emerging stronger every day, the paper noted. It said that the Jordanian people hope that the government's policies, coupled with increased exports and less spending will yield more fruitful results.

Sawt Al Shaab daily discussed Lebanon and said that the Arab summit meeting to discuss the situation in the embattled country. The question of holding a summit over the issue was discussed in depth by King Hussein and the Iraqi president on Friday when the two leaders also announced their full backing for the resumption of the Arab League's mediation committee of its peace efforts, the paper noted. It said backed by the international community, the tripartite Arab committee should this time embark on its mission with a fresh and more determined effort. Nevertheless, Arab leaders have a special responsibility towards Lebanon; and they can put an end to the ordeal and the bloodshed, and thus prevent any foreign intervention, the paper added. It said that the Arab nation at large is invited to take meaningful steps towards preventing devastation and massacres in Lebanon.

The features of a universal declaration of human rights

By Dr. Vojin Dimitrijevic

ONE HAS TO DECIDE at the very outset how to approach this challenging subject. At one extreme, the jurist may feel compelled to act as a positivist, and to base his observations on acts of legal significance following the adoption of the Universal Declaration (UD). If such a course was chosen, a "new" declaration would have to include all rights provided for in relevant international treaties, declarations of the U.N. and other universal international organisations, and principles regarding human rights developed since 1948 in constitutions, laws and jurisprudence of a significant number of states representing different legal systems.

This way has to be abandoned for two principal reasons. Such an investigation would require much more time and space and would be better suited to an endeavour to codify than to an intellectual inquiry as to the best document setting out modern objectives and standards in the field of human rights. The other reason is that the development of human rights has always been related to naturalist thinking, that is, to the discovery of the fundamental prerequisites of human life in dignity and freedom. Guidance is then only partly found in existing law. Furthermore, at the international level, an effort to remain realistic and positivist entails some danger of cultural imperialism. They put it very bluntly and simply, this would mean that what is already law in some societies or regions of the world should be enacted as law elsewhere.

The other extreme is pure speculation. For some kind of people with particular gifts this would be the easiest way out. The trouble is, however, that such an approach involves a measure of personal vanity, a presumption that everybody is interested in what I think sitting in my armchair. Drafting an international resolution is a part of international law-making, and law-making at any level is not a matter of personal preferences but a response to societal needs and interests expressed by relevant and powerful groups of people.

It appears accordingly that it would be best to steer the middle course of disciplined naturalism and to base one's suggestions on the experience gained by the implementation of the UD, on demands formulated by states and non-governmental organisations and on the effect of some social and technological developments on the enjoyment of the rights proclaimed in the existing treaties and declarations on human rights.

General questions

Before expressing specific preferences, a number of more general questions have to be addressed.

The paramount one has philosophical dimensions; namely, what is and what should be a human right? How can the danger be avoided, facing many proponents of the so-called "third generation" of human rights, of declaring any good and desirable thing a "human right"? In other words, not every value is every-one's right. For instance, peace is undoubtedly the most important instrumental value today, and this seems to be recognised by everyone (including those who, until recently, were willing to sacrifice "negative" peace for some ideologically described "positive" substantive value), but it is impossible to conceive of it as a human right, in spite of a resolution of the U.N. General Assembly declaring it a "sacred" right. In the prevailing political and ideological climate, there are "good" and "bad" words. "Human rights" is a "good" syntagma and we tend to relate it to whatever we like or desire.

Now, there must be some criteria for a value to qualify as a human right. They boil down to the requirement that a value be not only a coveted general situation but that it could be closely connected to its beneficiary and that it should belong to the latter by the mere fact of his or her existence. Without it the human being would be generally perceived as deprived and incomplete. Furthermore, the presence of a right must be a reasonable basis for a claim in a wider sense (i.e. not strictly legal). The possibility of a claim, without which a "right" is only a metaphor, presupposes the bearer of a corresponding obligation. I am aware of the danger that this might lead to the elimination of all but "classical" human rights that are enforceable before tribunals, national or international. For that reason, the bearer of a duty should not be conceived narrowly. However, there must be a discernible subject to whom at least political and moral claims can be addressed, claims that have priority over other claims because they are an exercise of a human right. Values that can be promoted only through general appeals and exhortation or by political struggle

cannot therefore be taken to be human rights.

The attentive reader of the preceding paragraph may have noticed some grammatical difficulties in referring both to individual and collective possessors of human rights. The UD refers exclusively to individual rights; its creators respected the historical origin of the idea of human rights as inherent rights of every human being. Some prior and subsequent developments have, however, highlighted the importance of the rights of groups and the inadequacy of viewing the society only as an aggregate of atomised men and women. Both Covenants on human rights elevated the right of peoples to self-determination to a privileged place. The rights of minorities, omitted from the UD because, immediately after World War II, they looked somewhat tarnished by abuse, reappeared in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) in a diluted form and are now being discussed in the United Nations as a possible subject of a separate declaration. The rights to development and to a healthy environment are examples of new rights that cannot easily be termed either collective or individual.

To be sure, a glance at the UD and the Covenants shows that they are sometimes ill at ease in trying to deal with certain rights as purely individual. How can the freedom of thought, conscience and religion be in all its aspects enjoyed alone? And, referring to articles 20 and 23 of the UD, an association with its members must pre-exist in order to be joined by an individual. In the effort to reduce the rights of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities to the rights of "persons belonging to them," the drafters of the CCPR were forced to use the plural, and they had also to concede that these purportedly individual rights had to be enjoyed "in community with the other members of the group." On the other hand, some representatives of states and learned jurists have claimed that the right to self-determination is not only a collective one.

New declaration

To return to our main purpose: how should the question outlined above be solved in a new declaration? The most practical solution would be to divide it into three parts. The first would contain individual rights enforceable by legal action. The second would consist of individual human rights to a decent and dignified existence under circumstances that have to be created in every society by national and international action. They can be predominantly supported by political claims of highest priority and could serve as an impartial (i.e. non-ideological) measure of the achievements of governments and international organisations. The third part would be then reserved for rights that are predominantly collective: they could thus be dealt with in a more direct fashion.

In respect to all rights, some instructions to states as to the place of human rights provisions in municipal law seem pertinent. Rights enumerated in the declaration should be at the highest place in the hierarchy of internal norms. As witnessed by many states which have gained independence since 1948, human rights provisions have been deemed worthy of a place in the national constitution. In any case, they should practically be at the constitutional level, which means that it should be impossible to supersede them by simple acts of the legislature, or even by administrative decree. Furthermore, following the example of the CCPR, some rights should be made non-derogable under any circumstances.

Enforcement

Second, there must be a safe and effective way of enforcing human rights, irrespective of their nature. In addition to tribunals, which are adequate for the first group of rights, the new declaration should insist on the creation in every state of an independent agency with the necessary powers to supervise the implementation of human rights provisions and to initiate legislative and political action necessary to promote human rights. This has recently been a tendency in many states and it should be made universal. It can be accompanied with two provisions. One of them is to secure the right to petitions relating to human rights with the assurance that no one shall suffer adverse consequences for merely submitting a petition. The other provision should aim at the strengthening of non-governmental organisations. For that purpose, in the elaboration of the existing right of association in article 20 of the UD it can be stressed that associations should be allowed to defend general rights and interests, and not only those of their members, that they can act in human rights cases on behalf of individuals and that they are free to join international non-governmental organisations.

Another general problem is whether it suffices that the declaration refers, as the UD does, only to "states, peoples, nations, individuals and organs of the society." What about serious violations committed by non-state actors? An initial step could consist of a proclamation that no state or international organisation would support groups and movements which violate the rights proclaimed in the declaration and to include "groups" and "movements" among the addressees of the declaration.

In the field of individual rights, the rights of the child are generally absent from the UD. In articles 25 and 26 children appear as passive objects of care by the state and their parents. In addition to incorporating the relevant passages of the CCPR, it should be made clear that a child is any human being under 18 and that, at a lower age, it should be consulted as to a number of things regarding his life and future.

The time seems ripe to prohibit the death penalty in a document that has the character of a declaration. If this is not done, provi-

sions regarding the death penalty in article 6 CCPR should be incorporated.

An area where technological development has encroached on human rights is the right to privacy. It is sad to note that, in spite of this, article 17 CCPR, which was adopted almost two decades after the UD, is almost identical with article 12 UD. A new article on privacy should be much more exhaustive. It should suggest rigid limits as to the entities entitled to handle personal data, the number and nature of such data and, coupled with the right to seek information, the right of insight into data banks and dossiers. An express provision forbidding the use of illegally obtained information should also be included.

The travaux preparatoires show that the original right to asylum in article 14 UD was through a linguistic manoeuvre transformed into a permission to ask for a favour. States are probably not ready to accept an effective right to asylum but the principle non-refoulement, derived from article 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, is certainly a

minimum.

It would be modest to suggest definitive solutions and wordings in respect to rights that would be totally new as compared with the UD. It suffices to refer to clusters of such rights, which merit inclusion according to the criteria established at the beginning, and to leave it to the debate to reach satisfying formulations.

I have specially in mind rights that are predominantly collective or of a mixed character or that require concerted international action.

There is the cluster related to health, which in the UD is reduced to an adequate, standard of living and medical care. One should think about the right to health in a wider, more preventive sense, which would include international efforts to eradicate some diseases and to combat drug production, traffic and use.

From the right to health should flow the right to a healthy environment. The concept of environmental pollution should imply damage done to aesthetic values. Given the experience with AIDS, would it not be proper to

cite the state of a person's health among the grounds for illegal discrimination?

Groups that require special protection and the rights of which should be expressed in detail are certainly national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as indigenous peoples and migrant workers.

Finally, in order to incorporate them into a new declaration, the rights of development and participation should be made more specific: than they are now in various declarations, resolutions and drafts. The latter right could be coupled with the "internal" aspects of the right to self-determination and with the necessary redrafting of the "democratic" article 21 of the UD.

Last but not least, the right to food should probably focus on the international community as the principal bearer of duties and responsibilities. The fact that whole peoples are starving, while in the affluent parts of the world large quantities of food are destroyed, is too blatant and too irrational to be overlooked. — Review of International Affairs, Belgrade.

Geneva conventions need respect

By Randall Palmer

Reuter

GENEVA — The world's best-known humanitarian watchdogs want more respect for conventions of war 125 years after they told nations: If you are going to kill and maim, at least be civilised about it.

Major European powers agreed to this concept after a stomach-churning tour of an Italian battlefield by Swiss businessman Henry Dunant.

But movement he created, now the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), is under pressure even from its own staff to be tougher with governments who flout the virtually universally agreed Geneva conventions.

The organisation accused countries such as Iran, and Israel of being among the worst offenders.

"I would like to launch an appeal to all states, an appeal to take their obligations under humanitarian law seriously, not to forget individuals and to give humanitarian considerations greater importance than they give now," ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga said.

He was speaking in advance of the 125th anniversary of the Aug. 22, 1864, signing of the first Geneva convention which provided for the care of wounded soldiers and protecting rescue workers under a Red Cross.

But today, the all-Swiss ICRC has to walk a tight-rope between speaking out harshly enough against violators and risking being thrown out of these countries.

Several months ago 200 members of staff sent a letter, just

made public, complaining to Sommaruga that the organisation was not standing up to foreign governments firmly enough.

The first convention stemmed from Dunant's tour of the battlefield of Solferino in 1859. He found 40,000 wounded soldiers mostly abandoned to die after fighting between French and Austrians on the one side and Sardinians on the other.

He organised local women to help the wounded and went on to found the Red Cross movement and bring about the first Geneva convention.

The start of international humanitarian law, this agreement led to other pacts. The best known are the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 — which protect prisoners-of-war (PoWs) and civilian populations in time of war, as well as sick and wounded soldiers and sailors.

Today, Iran and Iraq are among the most flagrant violators of the 1949 Geneva conventions, especially the Third Convention which demands that the ICRC have access to all prisoners during hostilities and that all PoWs be repatriated immediately after the hostilities end.

The Iran-Iraq war ended a year ago, but the 100,000 PoWs are no closer to home, victims of a cruel power game. The two countries hold tens of thousands of prisoners which the ICRC is not even allowed to visit.

The ICRC says Chad holds an estimated 2,000 Libyan PoWs, despite the end of hostilities two years ago. It says Israel violates the Fourth Convention by mistreating and deporting Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Egypt pleased to be Africa's voice

JUDGING by the coverage it has received in the Cairo press, Egypt is elated over the election of President Hosni Mubarak as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) for the next 12 months.

It represents another diplomatic coup in a year which has already included the Egyptians' re-admission to the Arab League — and without having to scrap their peace treaty with Israel.

In any event, it was perhaps overdue for the Arab north to be given a turn to head the 50-nation regional grouping. Libya was scheduled to take over the chairmanship in 1982, but the prospect of Muammar Qadhafi striding the world's stage as Africa's spokesman proved too much for most member-countries.

Efforts to stage that year's summit conference in Tripoli failed because of a lack of the necessary quorum. Many delegates simply stayed away from the Libyan capital.

There was no such difficulties at the latest gathering, held in Addis Ababa where the OAU has its headquarters. Hosni Mubarak was elected unopposed, and the organisation also chose a new Secretary-General, Tanzania's Salim Ahmed Salim.

Many observers hope that together the two will inject fresh dynamism into the pan-African body. Mr. Salim, a former Tanzanian premier, but recently deputy prime minister and defence minister, is also faced with the OAU's financial and administrative problems.

But this could be a challenge which he will relish as he has been regarded as the man most likely to become the United Nations' first African secretary-general. All the signs are that it could

prove an eventful year ahead for Africa and thus a busy one for the Mubarak-Salim team. The Egyptian leader is already involving himself in moves to resolve some of the continent's internal conflicts, particularly those in neighbouring Sudan and Ethiopia.

He has made it clear that Africa's economic problems — especially its debt burden — and southern Africa will be his foremost concerns.

Disputes between OAU member-states, some of long standing, will need all of President Mubarak's conciliatory skills, while it is also widely hoped that his period in office will see a burgeoning of Afro-Arab cooperation.

Guest speakers at the latest summit included the U.N. secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar. He devoted much of his speech to a defence of the way in which the world body is carrying out the task of bringing Namibia to independence.

But he left Addis Ababa having failed to disarm African critics of the U.N.'s handling of a delicate and critical operation.

Another aspect of the summit which caused some disappointment was its response to what many consider to be the far-reaching changes now under way in southern Africa. Understandable though it may be, given the passions that this seemingly perennial subject arouses, observers felt that too many delegates seemed to be discounting recent developments and falling back on the usual rhetoric.

Apart from what has been happening in the region, there is the fact that the Soviet Union has reappraised its attitude towards southern Africa, bringing it more into line with major Western countries. Lion features.

OPEN FORUM

Our life in London

FOUR years in England have passed so quickly but left deep-rooted memories of our essential and active life there.

Studying and living in London had always been one of our lifetime dreams. And that dream had been achieved four years ago when we decided to leave to London soon after finishing high school.

Moving from one society to another was so much felt when we suddenly found ourselves living in the West. The big difference between both societies made us think so deeply about the details of these two social systems, ours and the West's.

There is a deep gap between the East and the West, and it is so much revealed in the basis of these societies. What is prohibited or banned in one society, is sometimes tolerated and accepted in the other. Apart from different religions, and the commitment to these religions, the value system in the West differs greatly from that in the East. In the West, freedom of the individual is the basis of all social activities. That freedom allows individuals to lead the lives they find appropriate and suitable for themselves without fear of social persecution.

It is not common to find female Arab students studying in the West as the Eastern tradition and society are quite strict with girls for many reasons. The East tolerates sending boys rather than girls to study in an open society like Europe's.

We were told by several people that it was the first time they had met Jordanian girls, and twice, from a Palestinian origin. Some of the friends we first met asked: "Where is Jordan situated?"

Sticking to our principles and religion was strange to some of our friends. They found it pointless to keep the same Eastern way of life in the West. They told us several times, "If you are in Rome, behave like Romans." Others said, "You still pray, you do not smoke ... you do not drink ... you don't have boy-friends ... you are not living?" It was our duty to explain and to tell them about the good side of our tradition and culture. But, unfortunately, negative ideas about the Arabs are deeply rooted in their minds and cannot be easily uprooted. We both put our efforts to explain the conflict in the Middle East, the Palestinian cause and Palestinian rights. We gained many supporters for our cause both from British and from other European countries. They had little knowledge about our lives and our history.

The bad image given by some of the Arabs and their embarrassing behaviour is well known in the West, and it is unfortunate that many Europeans believe that all Arabs are the same. In their eyes, they are all mixed up. They all behave foolishly and stupidly, and spend their money here and there with no limits.

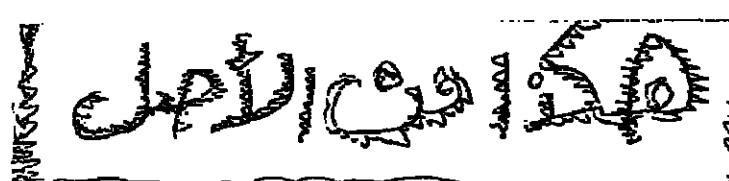
At the beginning of our study, we had a German classmate. At the beginning of the year, she did not know where we came from. She used to come very early to the lecture room. One day, we came a few minutes after her. As soon as we sat in the classroom, she asked for the dictionary. We apologized to her, and told her it is not English-English, but English-Arabic. She looked at us and asked, "Are you Arabs?" We replied, "Yes, we are." She stared at us in a strange way and said: "Don't you feel ashamed when you tell people that you are Arabs?" We were shocked by what she had said and the way she said it. We started to explain to her logically and nicely that we have, like any nation, good and bad things, respectful and embarrassing people, and as Arabs we are not as bad as she thought. We told her that some decades ago, Germany had the Nazis who dragged Germany into the World War II and killed millions of people, and wanted to occupy many countries in the world, and committed unforgettable crimes against humanity. And since then, she became a good friend of ours.

The stereotype carried by Westerners about Arabs is due to propaganda in the West which is mostly anti-Arab and pro-Jewish. It was not until the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza started that the Western opinion began to sympathize with us.

As Muslims, from a conservative family, some of our people might think that it was difficult for us to come into terms with a very open society like the British one. One of the good qualities about the Western society in general is that it does not impose any particular behaviour on any person. Individuals have the right to choose the beliefs, the principles, and the religions they want. You can find very strict Muslims on the one hand, and atheists and non-believers on the other. Therefore, we were free to keep our principles unharmed and unharmed, and behave within the limits of our traditional way of life.

Living in a developed country like Britain was worthy and cannot be forgotten. Living and studying there have taught us a lot about life and about our country. And as Charles de Gaulle once said: "If you want to know what is going on in your country, live far away from it."

Souraya and Sana Izzat Abu-Huwail



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa — an opera star looks back

By Nick Rossi

MILAN — When Queen Elizabeth made Kiri Te Kanawa a Dame of the British Empire back in 1982, the throne was publicly acknowledging what the world of music had known for years — that Dame Kiri was one of the greatest sopranos ever to go on stage.

Born in Gisborne, New Zealand, of mixed European and Maori parentage during World War II, Te Kanawa's rise to fame is a rags-to-riches story. When still very young she was given up for adoption, and her new mother "to whom I owe much of my early success," she says, proved a strong character who played a major role in encouraging her singing career. "The real gift, though, was a sense of being very, very special," remembers Te Kanawa, who has never tried to find her real parents. "I will always be grateful for the wonderful feeling this has always given me."

As a young and struggling singer in the New Zealand capital of Auckland, Te Kanawa sold sheet music, worked as a switchboard operator and sang in nightclubs to pay her way through St. Mary's College, where she studied voice training. The long years of hard work and sacrifice paid off. Since those lean times, Dame Kiri has performed in the world's major opera houses, including New York's Metropolitan, London's Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala and Vienna's Staatsoper. She has had her own Christmas television spectacular, starred in a movie version of "South Pacific" with Jose Carreras, recorded a selection of Cole Porter and Irving Berlin tunes with Nelson Riddle and was asked to perform as the soloist at the 1981 wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

Getting somewhere

Te Kanawa first came to the critics' attention after she moved to London and appeared as a flower-maid in Wagner's religious opera, "Parsifal" at Covent Garden. Her appearance on the same stage in 1971 as the Countess in Mozart's comic opera "The Marriage of Figaro" received international acclaim. Three years later she made her debut with the New York Metropolitan Opera as Desdemona in Verdi's "Otello." But in spite of these successes, it wasn't until she sang the title role in "Arabella" by Richard Strauss that she felt she was, in her own words, "really getting somewhere."

It was my first Strauss role and I was scared stiff of it, because it's a huge, important role and totally different from anything I had sung to date," remembered Te Kanawa, interviewed recently in Milan where she was doing recording sessions with Sir Georg Solti for Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra."

"After agreeing to do it, two years before the actual performance, I flew off to Cologne to see it on stage without knowing anything about it — neither text nor music — to see how it would affect me. I think sometimes it's important to approach a piece 'raw' so as to discover what one's spontaneous feelings and reactions are. Mine were to identify with Arabella immediately, because there is a lot of me in her — I too can detach myself from situations of emotional crisis and look at things fairly coolly."

Te Kanawa's versatility has always helped her in her long and varied career. In a complete break from opera, she recorded a selection of Cole Porter and Irving Berlin Broadway tunes with Nelson Riddle for an album called "Blue Skies."

"Way back in my youth I had sung these songs in the night clubs of New Zealand, and I truly loved them," she said. "Then, when I first met Nelson, we talked about the possibility of cutting an album."

"Nelson and I first met in Sydney, and subsequently on several occasions all over the world. I vividly recall one time in the Opera House at the Casino in Montecarlo. It was there in a rather unglamorous rehearsal room that we had our first working session for this album, and began to choose the songs we wanted to do. As we got to know each other, a concept for the album slowly developed. We selected some of our favourite songs — 'It Might as Well be Spring,' 'I Didn't Know What Time it Was' and 'Yesterdays' among almost a dozen others — and he began to work on the arrangements."

"It was obvious that my normal operatic voice could not successfully interpret these songs," she went on. "Therefore, key selection was a prime concern, because it is the lower part of my voice which naturally fits the songs. We also adapted 'pop' recording techniques, using the most up-to-date studio, with multi-track, fully digital recording."

Thrilled

Te Kanawa did not actually hear Riddle's arrangements until she turned up for the recording sessions in London. "I was thrilled. They are wonderful," she said. "They embrace the lyrics and bear the voice along on what feels like a cushion of air."

The stable influence in Te Kanawa's hectic life is her Australian businessman husband, Desmond Park, whom she met on a blind date shortly after graduating from singing college. The couple have two adopted children — Antonia and Thomas — and Te Kanawa emphasises that she tries to make them feel special, just as her own adoptive mother did when she was a child. "I tell them all the time: 'You're special,'" she said. "How many natural mothers do that?"

Are Antonia and Thomas musically inclined? "You have to know that music has always taken me away from them, so they ask: 'Are you working today?' and I'll say no," said Te Kanawa. "This is not to say that they don't enjoy music. They love to hear me on the radio, and my little boy says: 'That's you!' quite proudly."

Home of Te Kanawa and her family is a large house in Surrey, England, with a vacation retreat on the Algarve coast in Portugal. In between shows, the opera star keeps in trim by playing squash, tennis and, her great passion, golf.

In spite of her professionalism on stage, Dame Kiri has a girlish streak in her. In her hotel room in Milan, a batch of publicity photographs had been put out, ready for a messenger to pick up, but the ones Te Kanawa didn't like were liberally decorated with a devil's tail and horns, a fiendish grin and a sinister moustache.

Near her desk, a humidifier kept the air's moisture content at a constant level because, as a singer, Te Kanawa has to take great care of her health. She is also a fanatical anti-smoker. "When I recorded 'West Side Story' the room had to be cleared



Part Maori and part European, Dame Kiri of New Zealand has carved a name for herself on the world opera stage. (WNL)

every half-hour because Leonard Bernstein is almost a chain smoker, especially when he is conducting a rehearsal or a recording session," she noted. And at a party given for her recently in Japan, following a recital, Dame Kiri insisted on having every cigarette extinguished for the sake of her voice, only to discover that one man was still smoking — her piano accompanist.

Even a common cold can bring a total halt to all professional engagements. "What a problem it was when the children were younger, for I not only went through all the routine anxieties that children's illnesses bring to every mother, but there was always the trauma of catching the infection myself, which I did constantly," she said.

A recent release is a video made of Dame Kiri's best-known role, that of the Marchallin, Princess of Werdenberg, in Richard Strauss' romantic opera "Der Rosenkavalier," generally acknowledged to be one of the greatest character studies in the world of opera. Set in Vienna, opera shows how the Marchallin's happiness becomes marred by her awareness that her beauty will soon fade. A brief flirtation with Count Octavian comes to an end when he falls in love with another woman, to whom, as Cavalier of the Rose — hence the title — he is called upon to present a silver rose in honour of her betrothal to another man.

Te Kanawa remembers the role with great affection. "I knew the part very well which is usually a

great help because sometimes when you've learned a part and are singing it for the first time you're really not ready for the television cameras and all those close-ups," she said.

"Then too, there was one of the greatest conductors in the world in the pit, Sir Georg Solti. I also had wonderful colleagues and great stage direction from John Schlesinger. That, plus absolutely gorgeous sets and costumes — you couldn't have gotten a better situation... I had worked the part of the Marchallin many times before and I think I have molded the role to just what I think it should be. It's a part I feel very, very deeply because

every single word that she says is what's happening to me today. Thus I believe every word of the first act — I love it. It's so true to life — how one copes with it." "In certain ways it's stopped jealousy in my own life. I've learned not to be jealous. It's how you cope with jealousy in every aspect of life: of a more beautiful voice, of a more beautiful figure, more beautiful skin, beautiful legs — jealousy of everything. I've come to terms with a lot of things I didn't think I was jealous about until I studied this role. I've learned to calm down and to admire such qualities in other people rather than envying them" — World News Link.

Afghan 'Rambo' — a real one-man war machine

By Dilip Ganguly
The Associated Press

JALALABAD — Like Rambo, the fictional one-man fighting machine of American movies, Mohammad Niaz, the 22-year-old son of an Afghan farmer, is an expert in conventional and guerrilla warfare, and largely runs his own war.

But there's one crucial difference — Niaz's war is real. Also unlike Rambo, who almost single-handedly set out to decimate the Soviet army in Afghanistan, Niaz is fighting for the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

"I love killing enemies. I have killed so many I can't count," Niaz said as he ad-

justed the crossbelt holding 200 bullets around his chest and waist. Government authorities presented him to reporters visiting Jalalabad, a strategic city about 125 kilometres east of Kabul.

The government has recruited many men who, like Niaz, have a personal reason to fight the guerrillas trying to overthrow President Najibullah and his government. They receive weapons and supplies and great freedom to operate independently.

Niaz signed on three years ago after a close friend was killed by the Pakistan-based rebels.

"Fighters like Niaz are the strength of the government

(forces)," said an army officer who asked not to be identified by name.

"For regular soldiers it is often difficult to counter the opponents who are fighting a guerrilla warfare. But when the opponents (rebels) face men like Niaz they face a perfect guerrilla," the officer said.

Jalalabad, which once had a population of about 65,000 and has been under siege since early March, has been the scene of some of the deadliest battles during the decade-long war between government troops and the U.S.-backed guerrillas.

Fighters such as Niaz receive training, arms and ammunition and then are let loose to carry on their battles the way they

want. They also receive money and food, but officers won't say how much.

"There are many lesser Ramboes in Afghanistan who are initiated by the government to fight their own battles and in the process fight the government's war against the rebels," said one Asian military expert, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Guns are nothing new to Niaz.

When Niaz was 10, his father — like many Afghans do for their male children — bought him a gun.

"As a young boy I was good with guns for hunting. But now I can take on the best soldiers," he said.

On the verge of ecological catastrophe

By Emir Smajic

ECONOMIC, social and even political effects of the current degradation of the human environment, which in some cases reach the proportions of an ecological catastrophe, increasingly affect the developing countries too. The Third World is faced with the kind of problems which until recently was an exclusive privilege of the industrialised world, and which is now even more pronounced when the poor countries are concerned.

It is only logical that one of the main topics at the 9th Non-Aligned Movement summit in Belgrade this September should be the protection and improvement of natural resources as a major component of socio-economic development.

Nature strikes back

Scientists warn that unless energetic measures are immediately taken to stop the deterioration of the human environment, the world will be faced with an ecological catastrophe within decades.

Chemicals have become an inseparable part of contemporary life, not only in industrialised but in developing countries too. Pressed by the need to ensure higher yields for their growing populations, developing countries have accepted insecticides, pesticides and herbicides, but time has shown this to be a double-edged sword and mankind now must protect itself from its own achievements.

Experts say that out of the 80,000 chemicals sold on world markets today some 8,000 should be considered hazardous and some 150 to 200 even cancerogenic.

There is much evidence to substantiate this claim, and one of the more drastic examples concerns a small Asian country where 9,000 people died and another 14,000 were taken ill with pesticide poisoning.

Poor farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America have to burn forests to gain more farming land. In a few years, however, the soil becomes barren. The farmers in turn burn more forests, so that 15 million acres of land is annually turned into deserts and some 10,000 species are irretrievably destroyed.

Acid rains, until recently known

only in the industrialised north, have reached the farthest corners of the earth — including the African savannahs and Amazonian jungles.

The oceans are also polluted with an estimated 20 billion tonnes of waste, such as various chemicals, heavy metals and sewage. As recently reported, ten nuclear reactors from U.S. and Soviet nuclear-powered ships and submarines are lying on the bottom of world seas.

From 1975 to 1985, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) came out with nine programmes for sea protection: for the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, the Adriatic Gulf, the area of Kuwait, West Africa, the broader Caribbean region, East Asian seas, South-east and South Pacific, and East Africa. A similar plan for South Asian seas is expected to be adopted early next year.

Deadly waste

A scandal over last year's unloading of some 2,000 tonnes of poisonous industrial waste, mostly from Italy, at the Nigerian port Coko was brought to the attention of the International Court of Justice at the Hague. In 1987, the United Nations was informed of West Germany's negotiations with South Africa on the dumping of its nuclear waste in Namibia.

These and many other cases are yet unknown to the public, but they amplify a large network of waste trade whose victims, as a rule, are Third World countries.

On the other hand, the developing countries with nuclear power plants and those with isotopes in industry, agriculture and medicine will soon be faced with the same problem.

In such a situation, the developing countries should urge development programmes aimed primarily at eradicating poverty, along with an orientation to new industrial processes and larger transfers of the so-called pure technologies.

The Third World countries cannot and should not deal with these problems alone. Processes in nature are not confined within political boundaries, and international cooperation is an essential requirement for overcoming the existing situation in environmental protection — Tanjug features.

JTV CHANNEL 2 HIGHLIGHTS

NICE AND EASY is the title of the new episode of the Golden Girls on Monday at 8:30. Blanche's favourite niece, Lucy, comes to Miami for a visit. As soon as she arrives she asks Blanche's permission to leave to go and meet a "gorgeous" doctor she met on the plane. Blanche relents and Lucy is off. Next on Monday there is the new series, "The Boat: It's 1941 and the crew of the German U-boat, U96, are on a final binge before returning to sea next morning on another wartime mission. After the boat leaves the French port of Laroche in a storm, nothing much happens. The 50-man crew, under the command of the "old man", are bored, longing for something to break the monotony of their long fruitless search. The Boat will be seen at 9:10. Shadow of the Noose will return at 10:20 with a new case entitled, Beside the Seaside, in which pure intuition drives Marshall to defend a thief accused of killing his wife. There will be more fun and magic on Paul Daniel's Show on Tuesday at 8:30. It will be followed by episode 2 of Winners and Losers at 9:10. Leslie Grantham plays high-flying boxing promoter and entrepreneur Eddie Burt in a fast-moving drama series set in Glasgow. Burt comes to the city from London to follow up a tip-off about a promising young Scots boxer. But he faces stiff competition from ambitious businessman Scott James. As they battle it out for a stake in the young fighter's future, they also become bitter rivals for the affections of glamorous businesswoman Jo Graham. A new mini-series will begin at 10:20 on Tuesday. Act of Betrayal has its setting in civil-strife war-torn Belfast. Michael becomes a target to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) vengeance when he gives names of members of the IRA involved in an explosion in London, to the police. On Wednesday at 9:10 there will be a documentary entitled: Mysteries of the Polar Seas. The film also focuses on the life of those living on top of the world — the Eskimos. At 10:20 there will be the bestseller, Master of the Game. This will be the second run on JTV. It is the story of an adventurer who travels to South Africa seeking diamonds. The Bill Cosby show returns on Thursday at 8:30 while on Friday there will be more world record at 8:30 in Guinness Records. At 11:10 there is Three's Company. Good old Fairley is deeply depressed and contemplates suicide. But the "three" decide to cheer him up.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Prominent parliamentarian describes Indian fair opens next month economy in Iran as sick, bankrupt

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's economy is sick and bankrupt according to the head of the parliamentary budget and planning committee.

"We are preoccupied with a sick, dependent and bankrupt economy," committee head Mordechai Alvi said in a newspaper interview quoted Saturday by the Iranian news agency IRNA.

Alvi said causes of Iran's economic malaise included wide fluctuations in the price of oil, massive movement of the population to cities and lack of balance between revenue and spending.

"Jobs seem to get scarcer by the day despite the fact that the nation has embarked on a broad reconstruction programme in which hundreds of towns and cities are to be rebuilt," he said.

Iran's infrastructure took a heavy battering from Iraq during the Gulf war.

The agency quoted another newspaper, the English-language 'Kayhan International', as calling the interview depressing.

Alvi's comments contained no comprehensive solutions to "the colossal economic problems of the country, almost all of which are the product of Iran's dependence on oil as the major source of foreign income," the paper said.

It said a five-year economic plan now being drafted failed to tackle "the most important and dangerous drawback in Iranian society — the distribution of wealth."

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in his inaugura-

tion speech that Iran's economic problems must take priority. Unemployment is believed to be running at more than 25 per cent of the 15-million-strong workforce and people queue for hours to buy rations of subsidised necessities.

IRNA said last month the five-year plan envisaged the creation of 43,000 jobs and investment of nearly \$10 billion in heavy industry.

Alvi said in the interview it would be impossible to implement the five-year plan with the existing standard of management.

Poor management had halted production at many major industrial and agricultural facilities, he said.

Kayhan International described the plan as more ambitious than realistic and said it was difficult to see how Rafsanjani's government could ease the people's suffering.

IRNA said Planning Minister Masoud Zanjani told reporters Saturday that under the five-year plan it was hoped to cut population growth from 3.2 per cent a year now to 3.1 per cent, with an eventual target of 2.3 per cent in 2012.

The success of the whole enterprise depended on cutting the birth rate, Zanjani said.

He envisaged reducing the current budget deficit of about 50 per cent to 4.2 per cent and

cutting inflation to nine per cent.

The plan, involving total investment of more than \$345 billion and due to be presented to parliament soon for final approval, forecast growth of 13.7 per cent in oil revenue and of 21.4 per cent for other revenue.

Zanjani said liquefied gas production should increase to 6.4 billion cubic feet a year from 1.7 billion cubic feet now and power generation would be boosted 8.7 per cent to 20,305 megawatts by 1994.

The plan called for 2,493,000 new housing units, 767,000 of them in rural areas, as well as 9,700 kilometres of roads and about 1,100 kilometres of railways, the minister said.

Iran shops in Oman for women's veils

Iran wants to import one million metres of black cloth from Oman to make women's veils because Iranian factories cannot produce enough, an Iranian embassy spokesman has said in Muscat.

"We have to import," said the spokesman, who cannot be named under embassy regulations. "It's a private sector concern but obviously any decision on an order depends on the new cabinet."

The move to import the cloth from Oman follows five days of talks between Iranian officials and Omani businessmen who visited Tehran earlier this month for the first time since last August's ceasefire in the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

The state-controlled Oman Observer daily, reporting on the talks, said Iran's private sector had shown a keen interest in meeting rising Iranian demand for cloth and other consumer goods from Oman's underutilised factories.

The paper quoted a senior Omani government official as saying the Iranians expressed "a strong desire to import black cloth" from Oman's sole cloth manufacturing unit, the Oman Textile Mills Co.

They also explored the possibility of joint procurement of raw materials and Iran utilising Oman's production facilities.

"Our factories are new and underutilised. Theirs are old and have reached maximum capacity and are not able to meet local demand," the paper quoted Salem Ismaili, managing director of Muscat's industrial complex, as saying.

"We can process raw materials for them and charge them the conversion cost," he said, citing aluminium production as a possible venture.

"We could jointly procure the raw materials, process them in Oman and go downstream with them," he explained.

Tehran businessmen are hoping to boost bilateral trade ties at an Iranian trade exhibition scheduled to be held in Muscat in the fall, the embassy spokesman said.

Oman is one of the regional Arab states which maintained friendly ties with Persian Iran during the Gulf war.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Indian industrial fair will open at the Amman International Fair grounds at Marj Al Hamam near here early next month.

The fair, organised by the Embassy of India in Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) will display samples of

Indian goods, food stuffs, construction and engineering materials and equipment used in the construction of roads, bridges and railways.

According to a JCCC spokesman, the month-long fair is designed to orient the Jordanian public on Indian industrial products to encourage trade exchanges between the two countries.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

IDB extends 3 loans worth JD 850,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has decided to grant three loans totalling JD 850,000 to Jordanian industrial businesses. A bank statement said that the loans will finance the purchase of raw materials for existing firms producing chemical detergents, tissue paper and plastic pipes. It said that the value added to national income that these projects bring is estimated at JD 2.4 million annually and that they employ more than 600 workers. The bank statement said that a total of 83 loans worth JD 10,317 million were granted to Jordanian businesses since the beginning of 1989.

Iraq, N. Yemen to host Jordanian fairs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade's Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) plans to organise two industrial fairs in Baghdad and Sanaa before the end of this year to promote the sale of Jordanian products in Iraq and North Yemen. A JCCC announcement said that goods to be displayed for sale to the public in the two countries include leather, clothes, pharmaceuticals, textiles and engineering products. The announcement said that the Baghdad fair will be held between Sept. 14 and 20, while the Sanaa fair will be held before the end of 1989. According to the announcement, the Baghdad fair will be allowed to sell products worth \$2 million while the Sanaa fair \$3 million.

Iraq opens new berths in south region

BAGHDAD (AP) — Eight new berths were opened in Iraq's main southern port of Khor Al Zubair, the general director of the port authority announced Sunday. Abdul Razzak Ali told the Associated Press that five berths will be used for exporting phosphates and other fertilisers, while the rest will be used for importing iron and general goods. The \$270 million contract was completed by a consortium of three Japanese companies, said Ali in phone call from the southern city of Basra. The berths can handle 96,000 tons of urea and phosphate exports and 750,000 tons of general goods per year, according to Ali. He said storage and packaging facilities were also built for the export of fertilisers, as well as services and staff complexes and a power plant for the ports area.

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Turkey may soon revive Ottoman bond

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's embattled treasury, preparing for looming financial problems, may soon revive a kind of non-maturing bond last seen in Ottoman times.

A government official has said the bond, paying an annualised 25 per cent interest, would be redeemable at any time by the bearer. No further details were available.

Such non-maturing bonds were the first paper currency in the Ottoman Empire, issued in the

1850s to pay for the Crimean War, and were a factor in its ultimate financial collapse.

"Non-maturing bonds will make a second-class domestic currency," said the official, who preferred anonymity.

Domestic currency circulation peaked at a record 8.3 trillion lira (\$3.8 billion) on Aug. 15, up 85.3 per cent from end-1988, after Prime Minister Turgut Ozal doubled public sector salaries in May and June.

Inflation has surged to 72.4 per

cent in the 12 months to end-July, its highest since February. Bankers expect a big overrun on Ozal's 60 per cent inflation forecast until the end of this year.

The treasury, striving to drain excess cash from the economy, set its first one-month bill auction on Aug. 15 when it borrowed nearly half a trillion lira at the shortest maturity it has ever used.

"Let no one be stunned if the treasury soon starts selling treasury bills with a six-hour maturity," said one senior Istanbul banker who asked not to be named.

The 1989 budget deficit is also

showing signs of strain, jumping to 1,438 billion lira (\$653.6 million) in the seven months to end-July from 900 billion lira (409.1 million) to end-June.

Bankers and officials are warning that relying heavily on short-term domestic borrowing is dangerous at a time interest rates are already climbing alarmingly fast.

Average annual yield of 54.84 per cent on the new one-month bills was the highest interest rate at which the treasury has borrowed this year, and compares with one-month bank deposit rates of around 42 per cent

joint projects one of which would be related to phosphate and fertilisers at a cost of \$1.2 billion.

Other tentative agreements reached included one to set up a textile mill at an estimated cost of \$15 million and another to establish a plant in Shida, southern Jordan to produce 600,000 tonnes of phosphoric acid.

This year, India is expected to buy one and half million tonnes of phosphate, 550,000 tonnes of potash and 200,000 tonnes of fertilisers from Jordan.

A decision was taken last month to set up an Arab-Indian joint chamber to help promote bilateral cooperation in industrial and commercial fields.

U.S., Soviet firms to look for oil in Yemens

ABU DHABI (AP) — South Yemeni Energy and Minerals Minister Saleh Abu-Bakr Ibn Hussainoun said Saturday that a consortium of Soviet and American firms has won a concession to explore oil in an area shared with North Yemen.

In statements published by the state-run newspaper Al Itihad of the United Arab Emirates, Hussainoun said the decision was reached Friday after a two-day meeting with his North Yemeni counterpart Ahmed Al Mahmi in Sanaa.

The consortium comprises the American Hunt Oil Co., the Soviet Union's Technoexport, France's CFP-Total and the state-run Kuwait Petroleum Co.

The two ministers presided over the meeting of the joint Yemeni Company for Investments in Oil and Mineral Resources (YCIOMR).

A statement said that YCIOMR was entrusted to finalise negotiations with the companies that won the prospecting tender, but gave no details.

The project will be carried out in a 2,200-square-kilometre area straddling the borders of the two Yemens.

Hussainoun told Al Itihad that

YCIOMR was asked to finalise the covering contract with the consortium "within a month."

He added that the first stage of operations would include drawing up the necessary geological maps and geophysical surveys of the area.

The competing list for the tenders had reportedly included the American companies Amoco, Conoco and Phillips Petroleum Co., as well as two United Arab Emirates companies.

YCIOMR was formed by the two countries in January 1989 with a \$10 million capital to administer the exploration in the joint area. It is believed to be rich in oil because it stretches close to the petroleum bearing zones where the two Yemens struck oil in recent years.

The two countries are committed to move toward gradual union despite their ideological differences.

North Yemen is already producing about 200,000 barrels per day from its Marib-Jawf field, where Hunt is the concessionaire, and South Yemen, with the help of the Soviet state-run company Technoexport, is gearing to produce about 120,000 barrels per day from its Shabwa field.

Omani cement exports come under pressure

MUSCAT (AP) — Omani cement exports are threatened by the start of a five-day working week that leaves the Gulf state only three days for doing business with the West, the state-controlled Oman Daily Observer reported Sunday.

The new five-day schedule introduced last month gives Omani civil servants a holiday on Thursday as well as Friday.

That puts Oman out of touch with other parts of the world for four days a week, since offices in the West are closed for the weekend on Saturday and Sunday.

Traders operating through the private sector Raysut Cement Company which exports cement from Salalah, the southern region capital, warned that overtime pay for loaders working Thursdays and Fridays and the cost of idling ships in port could make Omani cement prohibitively expensive.

"Prices could rise by \$2 to \$3 a ton which is serious considering the business is competitive and we operate on low margins," the paper quoted one trader as saying.

He estimated extra costs at

between \$7,000 to \$9,000 per day for five gangs loading 1,200 tons.

"At this rate, we'll have to withdraw from dealing with local cement," another trader said.

Raysut plant is one of two Omani cement manufacturers. The other is the state-run Oman Cement Company based in Muscat.

In 1986, the most recent statistics available, the two companies' annual production totalled 835,000 tons. No figures were given for exports.

Salalah's position on the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula makes Raysut a convenient source of cement for North and South Yemen and East African markets, compared to Muscat, the neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE) or other Gulf suppliers, the paper said.

But higher export prices could cancel out lower transportation costs, to the advantage of other suppliers, including the UAE, the paper added.

There have been no complaints so far from other Omani businessmen over the official introduction of the five-day week.

High imports, low exports turn China more in red

BEIJING (AP) — Soaring imports contributed to a \$3.8 billion deficit in China's current account last year, official reports have said.

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange recorded an increase, however, in China's foreign currency reserves, excluding gold, to \$17.35 billion from \$15.24 billion in 1987, the English-language China Daily said.

The report said China posted a \$7.13 billion surplus in its capital accounts, including direct investments and international loans.

The \$3.8-billion deficit in the current account, which includes trade and tourism, was largely

due to a doubling of the nation's trade deficit because of sluggish export growth and soaring imports, it said.

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) accounting procedures, China's exports in 1988 totalled \$41.05 billion, up 18.2 per cent over 1987, while its imports grew 27.4 per cent to \$46.37 billion, it said.

The resulting \$5.32 billion trade deficit was double that of 1987, the report said.

China's Customs Administration has reported a \$700 million trade deficit in July, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

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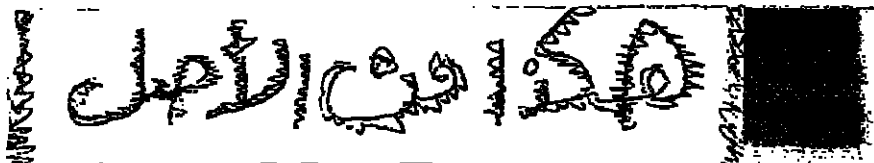
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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES
Sunday, August 20, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	297.3	300.3
British Sterling	936.0	945.4
Deutsche Mark	365.1	368.2
Swiss franc	354.0	357.3
French franc	90.5	91.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	418.7	422.9
Dutch guilder	271.0	273.7
Swedish crown	90.2	91.1
Italian Lira (for 100)	42.6	43.0
Belgian franc (for 100)	146.2	147.7



Johannesburg rally blocked

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Riot police armed with shotguns and semi-automatic rifles barred hundreds of activists from holding a political rally in Johannesburg Sunday to protest against South Africa's apartheid laws.

The rally, called by the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM), was organised as part of a defiance campaign against apartheid and the exclusion of blacks from a general election Sept. 6.

It was banned by the government Saturday in terms of sweeping emergency laws aimed at crushing black opposition.

Diplomats representing several foreign governments arrived for the aborted rally.

"I am here because the position of my government is clear: we are against apartheid," West German diplomat Wolf-Ruthart Born told reporters.

Three television crews, among about 30 local and foreign journalists on the scene, were bundled into a police van and driven away.

They were taken to a police station and released after being warned not to film any police action under the emergency laws which impose severe restrictions on media coverage of anti-government protests.

The government is cracking down hard on the defiance campaign, which has encouraged blacks to break laws that racially segregate South Africa's hospitals, schools, beaches and residential areas.

On Saturday, police used rubber whips and batons to beat hundreds of black demonstrators who streamed onto a whites-only beach near Cape Town despite laws that bar blacks from some of the country's best seaside resorts.

Scores of police backed by riot vehicles Sunday barred the entrance to the beach.



Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu announces in Johannesburg plans by anti-apartheid activists to hold a general conference after next month's general elections

ance to the west campus of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg's main university, where the rally was to have been held.

Police posted copies of the government order prohibiting the meeting on the door of the hall where it was to be held.

Leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF) anti-apar-

their coalition and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the country's biggest labour federation, had planned to address the meeting.

Their speeches would have defied a government ban on any activity whatsoever and one which restricts COSATU from conducting any political activity. Both

organisations were restricted by Pretoria last year.

Police set up roadblocks and stopped cars ferrying UDF members to the rally. They hauled some protesters out of the cars and ordered them out of the area.

About 200 black demonstrators defied the police and assembled inside a hall on the main campus, where a group of masked youths unfurled the flag of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla group fighting to overthrow white rule.

Activists said they would organise a protest meeting Tuesday to replace the one that had been banned.

The government last week outlawed several other anti-apartheid meetings scheduled for this weekend, among them a UDF rally due to have been held near Cape Town Sunday.

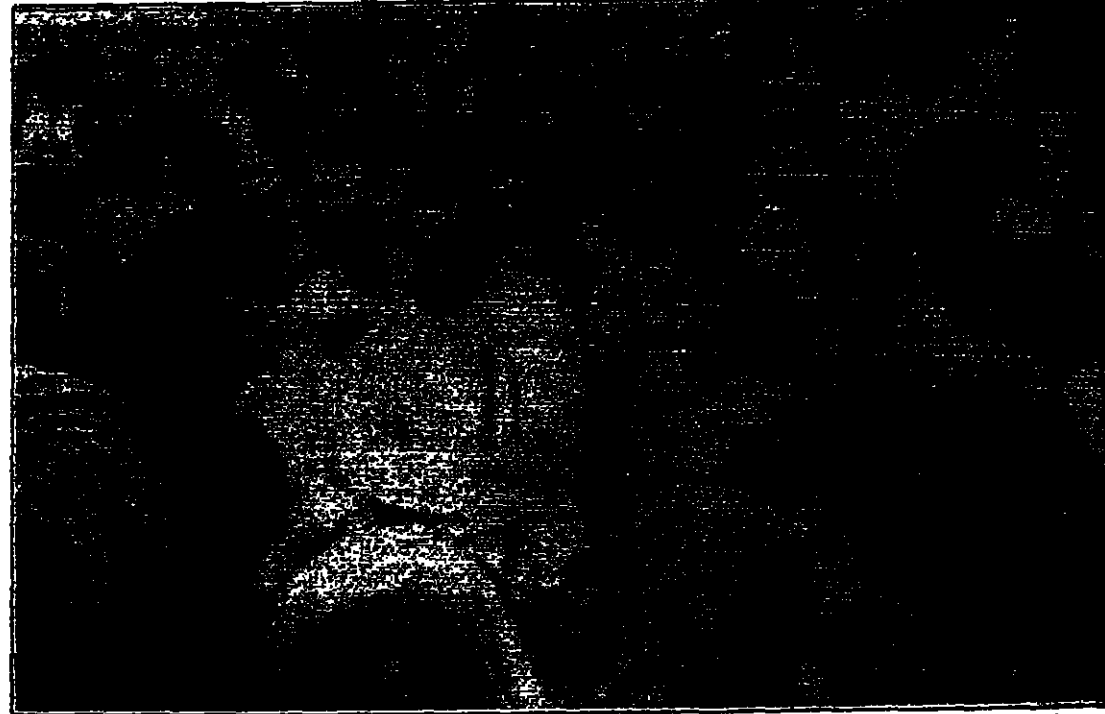
African strategy

African states and liberation movements, closing ranks against a South African diplomatic offensive, will try Monday to draw up a common strategy on negotiations to end apartheid, African diplomats said.

The document expected to emerge from the meeting in Harare of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) ad-hoc committee on southern Africa will be Africa's response to mounting international pressure for a negotiated settlement.

"It will set out the path for negotiations, if the South Africans are interested," one diplomat said. The OAU initiative would test the seriousness of repeated statements by South African leaders that they were ready to dismantle apartheid.

The ANC will be represented at Monday's 13-nation meeting. The Lusaka-based ANC is hoping the OAU will back its own negotiating position.



Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his wife Sonia talk to villagers in the western coastal state of Gujarat

Gandhi poll hopes brighten against divided opposition

NEW DELHI (R) — India's parliament rang recently to chants of "Rajiv Gandhi is a thief" but strident opposition efforts to make corruption charges stick appear to have done nothing to dent the prime minister's popularity.

There is little semblance of that unity at present, with Singh's Janata Dal Party riven with dissent.

Even a combined opposition would probably fall short of the 272 Lok Sabha (lower house) seats needed to gain an absolute majority and form only the second non-Congress government since independence in 1947, India Today said.

Sengupta, an academic at the Independent Centre for Policy Research, said: "One thing is clear. After the elections there will be no imperial prime minister in this country. Whoever is prime minister will be curbed by a very reduced majority and the opposition will be very strong."

Former newspaper editor Pran Chopra predicted a slim majority for Gandhi but said he believed the election would be followed by a period of troubled politics and damaging rifts between the central and state governments.

The India Today poll was taken in late July, coinciding with an opposition to resign en masse from the Lok Sabha in protest at

alleged corruption.

They walked out after the government's auditor and comptroller-general detailed serious lapses in the way the Swedish Bofors company was selected for a \$1.3 billion contract to supply the Indian army with field guns.

Widespread allegations that commissions were paid to middlemen over the contract dented the government's standing last year and the auditor's report looked like reviving the issue in the run-up to elections.

Even though voters polled in 30 of the country's 542 constituencies said corruption was the most serious issue facing the nation after prices, Gandhi's personal honesty rating has gone up. Sixty per cent of 10,399 people surveyed said they believed Gandhi was honest, two per cent up since February. By comparison, Singh's rating dropped three points to 28 per cent.

Chopra said he believed the opposition made a serious error in trying to link Gandhi directly with the Bofors payoffs and instead should have targeted the government as a whole.

Overall, 67 per cent thought Gandhi would make a better prime minister and only 25 per cent liked Singh more.

Colombia druglords don warpaint

BOGOTA (AP) — Colombia awoke Saturday in shock and in mourning over the murder of the country's favoured presidential candidate, Luis Carlos Galan.

Hundreds of thousands of people flocked to his coffin, to protest the government's inability to win its vicious war with Colombia's powerful drug cartels.

Galan, 46 years old, was struck by a submachine-gun fire late Friday night as he prepared to address a campaign crowd of 10,000 in the Soacha, a city just outside Bogota. Galan, the presidential candidate of the Liberal Party, was leading by wide margins in all opinion polls for the presidential elections in May, 1990.

The bulletproof vest he wore, because of previous attempts on

his life, stopping two bullets over his heart, but a third bullet sliced through his abdomen, severing his aorta so that he quickly bled to death.

Doctors at nearby Kennedy Hospital pronounced him dead in the operating room.

Druglords stood up to Barco and his war on drugs Saturday, declaring they will keep killing government officials and judges.

"Now the fight is with blood," Medellín Cartel declared in a brief communique. The threat by what is considered the world's most powerful drug organisation was broadcast by RCN Radio network and printed in La Prensa, one of the capital's major dailies.

"We do want peace. We have screamed for it, but we will not

beg for it," said the document signed by "the extraditables."

Previous documents of the Medellín Cartel have carried the same anonymous signature, which apparently refers to drug traffickers liable for extradition to the United States for criminal trial.

Barco announced drastic measures against drug-traffickers Friday night following the killings of judge Carlos Valencia Garcia; the police chief of Antioquia, Waldemar Franklin Quintero; and Galan.

The government has sent an elite police force to the drug-trafficking bastion of Medellín, and all of the armed forces have been placed under alert, meaning the army can be called into action at any time.

Sri Lankan army responds in kind to rebel threats

By Feisal Samath
Reuters

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan security forces have responded in kind to left-wing rebel threats against their families, officials said Sunday.

"We are meeting head on the threat by the subversives to attack families of security men if they do not resign," one source said. He declined to give details.

Other officials said the military had issued handbills in the provinces saying they would do the same to families of front men.

The People's Liberation Front (JVP) waging a bloody campaign to topple the government, has set Aug. 20 as the deadline for security forces to resign or face attacks on their families. It also asked them to help form a socialist government.

A spokesman in Colombo said police families had moved into hotels in Kandy and Kurunegala in central areas, where front activities have increased in recent months.

In the capital, a government school has been turned into a temporary shelter and relatives of security men invited to move in. Similar steps were being

taken in other areas.

Suspected members of the front, dubbed "subversives" by the government, raided a police armoury in the north-central region Saturday making off with 22 weapons.

"There was an exchange of fire and a sentry was injured," said one official. Others said one attacker was killed.

Government work in several sectors, including transport and hospitals has been affected by JVP-orchestrated strikes, and commercial activity has also been hit.

Military sources said over 400 suspected rebels were detained Saturday in operations around Colombo. Another 150 were detained elsewhere.

The government and opposition parties plan a joint appeal to all armed groups to cease hostilities from Sept. 1.

Official sources said a draft prepared by the government was now being discussed by the opposition.

Sunday newspapers reported it as saying: "We are appealing to all political parties and groups to renounce violence as a means of political objectives and to assist in restoring nor-

malcy."

It said more than 4,000 people had died in the past two years on the island.

The JVP is also fighting to get all Indian troops off the island. Officials said another battalion of between 700 to 900 Indian soldiers would leave the northern port Kankesanthurai Monday.

The troops were sent to enforce a 1987 pact supposed to end a Tamil separatist rebellion in northern and eastern areas but the government set July 29 as the deadline for all Indian troops to leave.

Since then about 2,000 soldiers have left, officials say, and both countries have been discussing a fresh deadline, with Colombo suggesting mid-September and New Delhi next February.

The independent Sunday Times reported that a special envoy of President Ranasinghe Premadasa in secret talks in New Delhi last week had suggested December as a compromise.

Another newspaper, the state-run Observer said Premadasa would appeal to heads of countries giving financial aid to continue their support, following concern that some might cut aid when donors meet next month in Paris.

Barge rams boat in Thames; 30 missing

LONDON (AP) — A riverboat carrying about 120 people on a late-night party cruise sank early Sunday after a collision with a barge on the River Thames. Several people drowned, up to 30 were unaccounted for and 89 were hospitalised, authorities said.

London fire brigade said bodies were recovered from the river, but would not say how many. A woman's body was recovered near Hammersmith bridge, 13 kilometres downstream, Scotland Yard said.

The Marchioness, chartered for a private birthday party, was hit from behind by the Bowbelle dredging barge near Blackfriars Bridge shortly before 2 a.m. (0100 GMT) and sank in less than two minutes, police said.

Survivor Piers Allen remembered

bers standing on a deck with many others.

"We were jettisoned into the water. It was very, very frightening. People were screaming and shouting and holding on to pieces of wood," he said.

Police Commander Tony Speed told reporters there were about 120 people on board at the time.

"Sadly, we expect more bodies," he said. "Given the speed at which the vessel sank, the time of night, and its location in the Thames, it's quite remarkable that 89 people survived."

Transport Minister Michael Portillo ordered government and police inquiries.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, on holiday in Austria, issued a statement through her office saying she was "deeply

distressed" by the accident.

Police were questioning the pilot of the 2,000-ton barge, which dropped anchor downstream after the accident.

Survivors said the empty barge first knocked the riverboat sideways, then struck it a second time and ran straight over it.

Many of those dancing on the top deck of the Marchioness jumped or were thrown overboard. Others, disco-dancing below deck, were trapped.

Annette Russell, 26, said the riverboat party was in swing at the time.

"Everyone had been quite relaxed," she said. "People were chatting and dancing to the music. It all happened terribly quickly. We were rammed from behind by an enormous steamer."

Dozens of passengers swam to safety, and 89 people were taken to three hospitals, nearly all suffering minor injuries, police said. Some people were treated for shock at the Savoy, the exclusive riverside hotel.

Ken Dewan, owner of Tidal Cruisers, the pleasure boat charter company that operated the riverboat, was helping police to determine the exact number of people who were on board, officials said.

Portillo said the Marchioness was certified to carry 149 passengers and two crew members. Asked about lifesaving equipment, he said the boat carried "various floating devices."

Police Inspector Howard Neil said ambulance crews, firefighters and police rescued all survivors within 15 minutes.

Bloch's wife comes under husband's cloud

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal investigators are studying the activities and finances of Lucille Bloch in search of evidence that could be used in the case being developed against her husband, spy suspect Felix Bloch, sources say.

Mrs. Bloch has taken a leave of absence from her job as executive director of the American Austrian Foundation, a group dedicated to improving U.S.-Austrian relations. Mrs. Bloch was the number two diplomat at the U.S. embassy in Vienna from 1980 to 1986.

Sources familiar with the case say Mrs. Bloch is not suspected of any wrongdoing or of being an accomplice. But in the hunt for any motive or evidence of espionage by Bloch, investigators are looking for signs of unexplained wealth or unusual trips that often accompany spy cases, the sources said on condition of not being identified.

Bloch, 54, has not been charged with any crime. He was placed on paid leave by the U.S. State Department in June.

About two weeks ago, Mrs. Bloch asked the foundation, which receives money from the Austrian Foreign Ministry, for an indefinite leave of absence, said Thomas McGrath, a New York attorney who serves as the group's secretary.

Mrs. Bloch made the decision on her own, and was not prodded by officials of the tax-deductible foundation, he said.

While Bloch has remained at the couple's apartment in Washington, Mrs. Bloch has stayed with relatives in New York, according to her friends. Her office in Washington, a room she rents from another consultant, is staffed by a secretary. Mrs. Bloch could not be reached for comment.

She told a newspaper in Vienna



Felix Bloch, waiting in line to see a movie in Washington. The alleged spy is followed everywhere

last month, "We are all very affected and in these difficult times we stand behind him."

Mrs. Bloch, whom McGrath said was a spectacular and "very

hard-working" employee, was hired as the foundation's executive director in 1988, according to forms on file with the New York secretary of state's office.

Panama talks remain stalled

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Negotiations between Panama's leadership and opposition over the future of the government were stalled Saturday after separate meetings with mediators from the Organisation of American States (OAS).

Time is running short: Acting President Manuel Solis Palma's term is scheduled to expire Sept. 1.

The government refuses to recognise an apparent opposition victory in May 7 elections or allow a new plebiscite, and the opposition refuses to join a coalition with the government. The government also rejects the opposition's demand that General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's top military official and de facto leader, step down.

"The opposition refuses to join a provisional government with the rest of the political forces... a

government of broad participation, of unity and national reconciliation," Carlos Duque, a government delegate to the negotiations, told reporters Saturday.

Guillermo Endara, leader of the opposition representatives to the talks and a presidential candidate in the elections, said the only solution was that "the people decide through a plebiscite. This is the most accommodating offer in the negotiations."

Two sides met separately Saturday with delegates from the Organisation of American States, headed by Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez of Ecuador.

Cordovez said after the meeting that separate talks were "more positive" because the sides "talk more freely and we have been forming an impression of what form an agreement could take."

The opposition held to its de-

mand that Noriega, chief of the defence forces, relinquish power.

Duque condemned the stand as "a demand from Washington" that would damage Panamanian sovereignty.

The United States has been pressuring Noriega to step down since he was indicted on U.S. drug trafficking charges in February 1988.

The OAS mission mediating the conflict Wednesday is to present a report on its progress to foreign ministers of the member countries, which include the United States.

Cordovez said Saturday the negotiations could continue "until the last minute."

Endara Saturday said two

opposition leaders, businessman Simon Balid and Olimpo Saez, who ran for the legislature in the May 7 elections, were arrested by the defence forces.

Balid, a local opposition leader in the northwestern province of Bocas del Toro, was arrested Friday for investigation of his political activities Endara said.

Saez was fined \$1,000 and sentenced to three months in jail for allegations he made about an official in a small political newspaper, Endara said.

He called the government's takeover this week of a local television station for failure to pay back taxes "a violation of the right to opinion."

The government said it would temporarily administer that station because of unpaid taxes, but Endara said "the fiscal measure is to cover up a political measure."

The station had been pro-government until 1987, when it began to criticise Noriega. Under the administration named by the finance ministry, the news coverage favours the government.

COLUMN

Australian shot — by a dog

SYDNEY (AP) — Australian Graham Williams is nursing a wound inflicted by his dog — he wasn't bitten, he was shot. As police tell it, Williams, his wife and his dog were returning home after a wood-gathering trip when near Bathurst, 200 kilometres west-northwest of here, with a loaded .22 calibre rifle sitting barrel-up on the floor on his utility truck. Mrs. Williams tried to pick up the dog. The animal struggled and knocked the rifle over, causing it to discharge and shoot Williams in the side. "I presume he inadvertently did it," a police spokeswoman said of the dog. Williams was listed in satisfactory condition in Bathurst hospital, the spokeswoman said. A hospital spokesman, contacted by telephone, said Williams could not be interviewed. Police planned no further action, the police spokeswoman said, adding that was all she knew of the case.

Couple weds — at somewhere different

SPARKS, Nevada (AP) — The minister said it was a traditional Christian marriage, but the wedding at a Nevada brothel took the prostitutes by surprise. Minister George Flint, who owns a wedding chapel and presided over the ceremony in the Mustang Ranch's parlour, said the couple asked a friend to find "someplace unique" for the wedding and led them to it blindfolded. Friday night's ceremony marked the third marriage for Ronald Scraps, 44, and the eighth for Valerie Dodge, 47, both of Washington. "It was a traditional Christian marriage and there were no naked hookers," said Flint. "What's the big deal?" brother owner Joe Conforte was the ring bearer and gave the bride away. It was the first wedding at the brothel, a few kilometres north-east of Reno, Conforte said. "I think the girls were really surprised that someone would get married here," said a maid at the Mustang Ranch who asked not to be identified. "The girls stood around and watched it for a while but then had to get back to work." Under Nevada law, brothels can operate, and several rural counties do allow and license the houses of prostitution.

High-quality trash — \$7,000 worth

TOKYO (AP) — For the second time in three days a large bundle of cash was found in trash Saturday, shocking sanitation workers who are used to some of the highest quality garbage in the world. Workers sorting garbage at a trash processing centre in Nara prefecture in western Japan found one million yen (\$7,000) in a briefcase, a prefectural police official said, speaking on condition he not be identified. No identification was found on the bag, and police do not know why the money was thrown out, the official said. On Thursday, garbage collectors found 1.24 million yen (\$8,700) in a pile of trash discarded in a residential section of Tokyo, police said. Police were still investigating the case and do not know who left the money, officials said. In April, more than 200 million yen (\$1.4 million) discovered in a bamboo grove near Yokohama, south of Tokyo. The discovery prompted extensive news coverage and a police investigation. Eventually a company owner, Kazuyasu Noguchi, said he made the money from trading rare postage stamps and hid it to avoid a tax investigation. The money was returned to him. Japanese frequently throw away relatively new appliances and other household goods when they buy new ones, in part because of the small size of Japanese homes.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Wind
AMSTERDAM	12	14	30
BAGDAD	22	28	30
BANGKOK	31	38	10
BATHURST	26	30	10
BOMBAY	28	35	10
BUEENOS AIRES	48	58	10
CAIRO	23	34	10
CHICAGO	14	26	10
COPENHAGEN	18	22	10
DALLAS	15	29	10
GENEVA	13	23	10
HONG KONG	28	32	10
ISTANBUL	20	28	10
LONDON	17	25	10
LOS ANGELES	18	26	10
MADRID	27	31	10
MECCA	20	33	10
MONTREAL	13	23	10
MOSCOW	12	24	10
NEW DELHI	28	35	10
NEW YORK	18	25	10
PARIS	17	25	10
ROME	17	25	10
SYDNEY	12	24	10
TOKYO	23	30	10
VIENNA	17	24	10